

amongst the youth. However, in order to prioritize sports disciplines for special focus and work out a differential pattern of assistance based on their status and performance, various sports disciplines have been identified in the following three categories:

- (i) Priority Category
- (ii) General Category
- (iii) Other Category,

However, Govt, of India through various promotional schemes of Sports Authority of India augments the efforts of the State Government in promotion of sports at sub-junior, junior and senior levels. For promotion of sports, children in the age group of 8—14 years are identified and admitted in the National Sports Talent Contest (NSTC) scheme and also Army Boys Sports Company (ABSC) scheme. Talented juniors in the age group of 14—21 years are admitted in SAI Training Centres and Special Area Games Centres of Sports Authority of India.

Encouraging women sports-persons

1911. SHRIR.SHUNMUGASUNDARAM:
SHRI C.P.THIRUNAVUKKARASU:

Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

- (a) what are the schemes formulated and available, to promote and encourage women sports-persons;
- (b) how much funds have been allocated, per year;
- (c) what are Governmental and Non-Governmental agencies involved in implementation of such schemes; and
- (d) how many women sports-persons have been benefited so far, from these schemes?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) Government of India is implementing the following two schemes to specifically promote and encourage women sports persons:

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- (i) Sports Festival for Women;
- (ii) Sports Scholarship Scheme (special scholarship for women component)

Other schemes of the Ministry also benefit both men and women sports persons.

(b) Following funds were allocated during the last 3 years:

<i>Name of the scheme</i>	<i>Years</i>			<i>(Rs. in lakhs)</i>
	1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002	
(i) Sports Festival for women	38 300	26 300	40 360	
(ii) Sports Scholarships				

(c) Non-Governmental Organisations are not involved in implementing the schemes. Sports Authority of India, State/UT Governments and concerned Sports Federations are involved in implementing the scheme.

(d) 5900 women sports persons under the scheme of Sports Festival for Women and 117 Women sportspersons under the scheme of Sports Scholarships have been benefited during the last 3 years.

Re-operating the All-India Sports Council

†1912. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':
SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:

Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government have decided to re-operated the Alt-India Sports Council.
- (b) if so, when this Council was established first;
- (c) for how many years the said Council has been inactive; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.