

Artificial recharge of ground water

2253. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether a scheme for artificial recharge of ground water through Dugwells in overexploited, critical and semi-critical assessment units of States is in operation;

(b) if not, the Dugwells operated, amounts spent, irrigation potential created and total area of land newly covered thereby; and

(c) the total area of cultivable land in the country, and out of that how much has access to irrigation by surface water and ground water?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VINCENT PALA): (a) A scheme on "Artificial Recharge of Ground Water through Dugwells" has been approved for implementation in 7 States namely, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh.

(b) Does not arise, in view of answer to (a) above.

(c) As per the information of Directorate of Economics and Statistics, Ministry of Agriculture, net sown area in the country during the year 2006-07 was 140.298 Million hectare (M.Ha.) and the area under irrigation was 60.857 M.Ha., which comprised of 15.35 M.Ha. from canal, 2.044 M.Ha. from tanks, 7.554 M.Ha. from other sources, 24.056 M.Ha. from tubewells, 11.856 M.Ha. from other wells.

Standard of football team

†2254. SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:

SHRI MOTILAL VORA:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that ranking of Indian football team is 140th;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the facilities provided by Government to improve the standard of Indian football team during last three years;

(d) whether the coach of Indian football team has suggested to discontinue tournaments like Durend and Santosh Trophy keeping in view World Cup and Olympics; and

(e) if so, the reaction of Government thereto and special steps being taken by Government to improve the standard of football?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI PRATIK PRAKASHBAPU PATIL): (a) and (b) The current FIFA ranking of Indian football team is 147th, which is decided on the basis of performance of various teams at international level.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) Government has up-graded football to "Priority" category from "General" category in May, 2007. Government has provided financial assistance of Rs. 30.55 lakh during 2006-07, Rs. 68.15 lakh during 2007-08, Rs. 52.58 lakh during 2008-09 and Rs. 38.15 lakh during 2009-10 (till date) for foreign competition exposure and holding of national championships. The Government has allocated Rs. 10.00 crore for preparation of Indian football team for the forthcoming Asian Games 2010, which would cover training and coaching, procurement of equipment and consumables, international competitive exposure and supporting personnel.

(d) Although, the coach of the national team has suggested discontinuance of these tournaments, the All India Football Federation has indicated that they would like to restructure these tournaments.

(e) The Government is willing to provide all possible support to lift the standard of football in the country.

Schemes for tribal children for sports

†2255. SHRI RAGHUNANDAN SHARMA: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state whether Government has any scheme to select tribal children in the age group of 9 to 14 years for their latest sports talents and then to provide them intensive training throughout the year and establishing an academy for popular games of the State so that maximum utilization of their talents may be attained?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI PRATIK PRAKASHBAPU PATIL): A scheme of Special Area Games (SAG) is implemented by Sports Authority of India (SAI) under which, sports talent in tribal areas is identified and nurtured. The trainees, who are in the age group of 14 to 21 years, are admitted in the training centres on residential and non-residential basis. They are provided with sports kit, sports equipments, competition exposure, insurance, medical expenses, etc. There are 21 centres wherein 1142 boys and 775 girls are new being trained.

Assistance for sports infrastructure

†2256. SHRI RAGHUNANDAN SHARMA: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central assistance provided for construction of sports infrastructure by Central Government, which has been discontinued would be started again or the States would be provided funds separately for the said purpose;

(b) the reasons for the slow pace of the construction work of central regional centre of Sports Authority of India and by when the same would be implemented; and

(c) whether the services of National Institute for Sports (NIS) trained instructors earlier provided for the Central schemes as well as State schemes by Sports Authority of India which have been discontinued presently would be started again?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI PRATIK PRAKASHBAPU PATIL): (a) Government has now introduced a centrally

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