

**Inauguration of 'Come and Play' scheme by SAI**

†2322. SHRIMATI BIMLA KASHYAP SOOD : Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Sports Authority of India has inaugurated 'Come and Play' scheme for entire India, on the 9 October, 2011;
- (b) if so, the salient features of the scheme and the details thereof; and
- (c) the number of coaches being appointed in the State of Himachal Pradesh under this scheme and the estimated amount provided for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI JITENDRA SINGH) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The 'Come and Play' Scheme was launched with the objectives of utilization of sports infrastructure, providing scientific training to sports enthusiasts and developing sports culture in the community.

The Salient features of the scheme include the following:

- (i) Training to sports enthusiasts between age group 8-17 years at nominal rates.
  - (ii) Age specific competitions *ie.*, 8-10, 10-12 and 12-17 years, conducted as per the calendar declared in advance twice a year on specified dates.
  - (iii) The first three position holders in the relevant age groups in these competitions would be allowed to participate in the competitions organized for selection of trainees for admission to the Boarding Scheme in SAI Training Centres/Special Area Games Centres.
- (c) Since the Scheme provides sports facilities and training at the existing SAI Centers, there is no requirement/need for appointing coaches under this scheme anywhere in India including Himachal Pradesh. No amount has been provided for appointment of coaches under this Scheme. The 'Come & Play' Scheme trainees are being coached by SAI coaches posted at respective Centres.

**Action Plan for discontinued NIS trained coaches**

†2323. SHRI KAPTAN SINGH SOLANKI : Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Sports Authority of India has discontinued the services of NIS trained coaches for State's schemes along with Centre earlier;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether Government has chalked out any action plan to resume it; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI JITENDRA SINGH) : (a) to (d) Earlier, coaches were being provided on demand by the Sports Authority of India (SAI) to the State Governments/UT Administrations for State/District Coaching Centres under the Schemes of the concerned States/UTs.

Since SAI has been facing acute shortage of coaches for the last 2-3 years, a policy decision has been taken to provide coaches for SAI's own schemes only. However, around 259 SAI coaches are still working in various State Coaching Schemes and University Field Schemes.

#### **Gender disparity in sports**

2324. SHRI AAYANUR MANJUNATHA :  
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY :

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

- (a) whether Government has taken steps for eradicating gender disparity in sports;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the steps taken for promoting women in sports;
- (c) whether the various schemes for promoting sports in the country provide for the distinctive dietary/training needs of sportswomen; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof along with the steps taken to provide special incentives to distinguished sportswomen ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI JITENDRA SINGH) : (a) and (b) All schemes of the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports (MYA&S) and Sports Authority of India (SAI), including those related to spotting and nurturing of sportspersons, cash incentives and national sports awards are gender neutral, and sportswomen and sportsmen are treated equally.

Further, conscious efforts are being made to encourage the participation of women in sports. The Panchayat Yuva Krida aur Khel Abhiyan (PYKKA), which aims at the