

**Creation of infrastructure for qualifying in 2026 Football World Cup**

370. SHRIRITABRATABANERJEE: Will the Minister of SKILL DEVELOPMENT, ENTREPRENEURSHIP, YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has any plans to create infrastructure so that India can qualify in the 2026 Football World Cup;
- (b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SKILL DEVELOPMENT, ENTREPRENEURSHIP, YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI SARBANANDA SONOWAL) : (a) No, Sir. However, the Government of India and Sports Authority of India regularly invests in creation of infrastructure for various sports disciplines including Football.

- (b) Does not arise.

**Developing Olympian sports skills amongst rural and tribal youths**

371. SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI : Will the Minister of SKILL DEVELOPMENT, ENTREPRENEURSHIP, YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether youths of Jharkhand in particular and rural India at large have more potential of developing Olympian sports skills, if so, the measures thought of to promote such youths at national and international level.
- (b) whether Government has a comprehensive plan to promote and develop rural and tribal youths exclusively in athletics, gymnastics, wrestling and other such sports; and
- (c) how many sportsmen other than cricket, particularly from Jharkhand and other States in general who performed well at national level and represented country at international level have been rewarded and employed/settled respectfully by Government in last five years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SKILL DEVELOPMENT, ENTREPRENEURSHIP, YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI SARBANANDA SONOWAL) : (a) No criteria have been laid down to judge the comparative sports potential between youths of rural India and youths from other parts of the country.

- (b) The promotion and development for sports of various sportspersons including rural and tribal youths for various disciplines including gymnastic, athletics, wrestling, etc., is the responsibility of the National Sports Federations (NSFs). The Government only supplements their efforts in this direction by providing financial assistance for organizing national/international tournaments in the country, participation of Indian teams