

cleaning, cathodic protection to prevent external corrosion and intelligent pigging of pipelines to identify internal metal loss, daily foot patrolling in populated/urban centers, periodical technical audit of the pipeline operations and maintenance by authorities such as PNGRB and OISD. Further, after the incident, the following actions are being taken by GAIL to prevent recurrence of such incidents in future:

- (i) Gas sampling and analysis at source point.
- (ii) Undertaking review and benchmarking of standard operating processes with respect to global pipeline operators.
- (iii) Creation of pipeline health monitoring group to monitor pipeline integrity and safety.
- (iv) Increased frequency of internal cleaning of pipelines.
- (v) Intense technical audit of pipeline operations and maintenance by statutory authorities.
- (vi) Increased frequency of various pipeline monitoring activities.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. Ex-gratia payment of Rs.25 lakh each to the next of kin of the deceased and Rs.1 lakh each to the injured persons has been handed over on 30.6.2014 and 06.7.2014.

Measures taken to popularise football

*140. SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY: Will the Minister of SKILL DEVELOPMENT, ENTREPRENEURSHIP, YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state the measures taken to popularize football as a people's game?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SKILL DEVELOPMENT, ENTREPRENEURSHIP, YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI SARBANANDA SONOWAL): Sir the primary responsibility for the development and promotion of a sports discipline rests with the concerned recognized National Sports Federation (NSF) which in the case of football is the All India Football Federation (AIFF). The Government supplements the efforts of the NSFs by providing financial assistance for holding national/international sports events in India, participation of sportspersons/teams in international sports events abroad, training/coaching of national level sportspersons/teams through Indian and foreign coaches, procurement of equipment and consumables etc. as per agreed Long Term Development Plans. Subroto Mukherjee Sports Education Society (SMSES) holds national and international football tournaments at the school level. Financial assistance, at par with the NSFS, is given to SMSES for organizing National Championships at the School level.

The Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports has been extending support for improving the level of sports including Football through its various other Schemes like Rajiv Gandhi Khel Abhiyan (RGKA) and Urban Sports Infrastructure Scheme (USIS). Under RGKA, financial assistance of Rs. 1.75 crore will be provided for construction of a sports complex in each rural block the country to cater to various sports disciplines including Football.

The Scheme of USIS provides for giving grants, *inter-alia*, for creation of sports infrastructure projects such as football/hockey turf/multi-purpose halls/athletic tracks, etc. Under the scheme, State Governments, Local civic bodies, Schools, Colleges, Universities and Sports Control Boards are eligible for assistance.

Apart from this, the Sports Authority of India is running the following promotional schemes in which football is one of the disciplines. Under these Schemes, training by experienced coaches with scientific back up is provided to the players to achieve excellence at national/international level:

- (a) National Sports Talent Scheme (NSTC)
- (b) Army Boys Sports Company (ABSC)
- (c) SAI Training Centre (STC)
- (d) Special Area Games (SAG)
- (e) Centre of Excellence (COE)

To generate interest among children to play football, Government of India considered the proposal AIFF and furnished the Declaration and Guarantees of the Government, sought by AIFF for their bid to host Under-I7 FIFA World Cup in India in 2017.

In addition, the AIFF has set up 5 National Academics located one each at Bangalore, Kolkata, Mumbai and two in Goa to impart training to the children born in or after 1997. The players in these Academies come from all over India, selected from the various competitions including the National Championships conducted by AIFF. These AIFF Academies are full-time residential academies where the players undergo training under the supervision of Asian Football Confederation (AFC) accredited coaches.

Further, AIFF in conjunction with FIFA, has started a nation-wide grassroots program aimed at boys and girls aged between 6-12 years of age. Currently the program is in operation in the States of Maharashtra, Manipur, Goa, Kerala, West Bengal and in the Union Territory of Chandigarh. The aim of the program is to get more boys and girls playing football and having fun in a safe, non-competitive environment.
