

Khel Abhiyan (PYKKA), and under Urban Sports Infrastructure Scheme for creation/development of sports infrastructure and conduct of sports competitions.

(d) and (e) The Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports has not allowed Sports Universities and special centres to any state including Kerala. However, in the Budget of 2014-15, a provision of Rs. 200 crore has been made for setting up a National sports University in Manipur.

#### **Shortage of Women Umpires/Referees**

2267. SHRIMATI SASIKALA PUSHPA: Will the Minister of SKILL DEVELOPMENT, ENTREPRENEURSHIP, YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any dearth of women umpires/referees in the country in various disciplines of sports;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) the steps taken to encourage women to choose careers as umpires/referees;

(d) whether Government intends to give training in this regard; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SKILL DEVELOPMENT, ENTREPRENEURSHIP, YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI SARBANANDA SONOWAL): (a) Sir, there is generally a dearth of women umpires/referees in various sports disciplines in the country.

(b) The position in respect of some sports disciplines is available with the Ministry. While the All India Tennis Association, Athletics Federation of India, Yachting Association of India and Basketball Federation of India have informed that there is no shortage of women umpires/referees and match officials in their sports, some other NSFs namely Table Tennis Federation of India and Rowing Federation of India have informed that they have very few women umpires/ match officials for their disciplines of sports. Also, the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has informed that there are very few women umpires/match officials in cricket. Some of the main reasons for the shortage appear to be lack of training facilities and limited availability of women for umpiring as a career.

(c) to (e) Development and promotion of various disciplines of sports including grooming and training of umpires/referees and other match officials is the responsibility

of the National Sports Federations (NSFs) which are autonomous in their functioning. The Government only supplements their efforts by way of providing financial assistance for participation in international competitions abroad, holding international competitions in India, conducting national championships, purchase of equipments, conducting coaching camps, etc. Nevertheless, National Sports Federations have been requested to include the component 'Training of Umpires' while finalizing the Annual Calendar of Training and Competition. Furthermore, under the "Scheme of Human Resources and Development in Sports", provision for specialized training/courses of match officials, coaches and support personnel for men as well as women has been made. Under this scheme, eligible persons can apply for financial grants from the MYAS for attending special training/courses, qualifying exams, participation in Seminars, Workshop and Conferences.

#### **Promotion of Sports among Youth**

2268. SHRIMATI SASIKALA PUSHPA: Will the Minister of SKILL DEVELOPMENT, ENTREPRENEURSHIP, YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the plans or schemes for developing and promoting sports among youths;
- (b) the year-wise details of funds allocated during the last two years, and in 2014-15;
- (c) whether Government proposes to review the National Sports Policy; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SKILL DEVELOPMENT, ENTREPRENEURSHIP, YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI SARBANANDA SONOWAL): (a) The following schemes are being run by the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports for promotion and development of sports among the youth in the country:

- (i) "Rajiv Gandhi Khel Abhiyan" (RGKA), a centrally sponsored scheme introduced in 2014-15, in place of erstwhile Panchyat Yuva Krida aur Khel Abhiyan (PYKKA), aims at construction of integrated sports complexes in all blocks of the country in a phased manner and providing access to organized sports competitions at block, district, state and national levels.
- (ii) Urban Sports Infrastructure Scheme, introduced in 2010-11, envisages development of playfields by the State Governments through Playfield