

Promotion of sports

†1222. SHRI RAM NATH THAKUR: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government is resolute to promote sports in the country;
- (b) if so, details thereof; and

(c) the details of schemes formulated by Government to promote sports in Bihar along with the names of Districts and Panchayats of the State where they would be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI SARBANANDA SONOWAL): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. Details of Schemes being implemented by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports for promotion and development of sports in the country are given in the Statement-I (*See below*). In addition, the Sports Authority of India (SAI), an autonomous body under the administrative control of the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, is also implementing various Sports Promotional Schemes for promotion and development of sports, details of which are given in the Statement-II (*See below*).

(c) Of the schemes being implemented, the two schemes which are specifically aimed at States and Union Territories (UTs), including the State of Bihar, are Rajiv Gandhi Khel Abhiyan (RGKA) and Urban Sports Infrastructure Scheme (USIS).

Under the RGKA, all 6545 blocks of the country are to be covered for creation of block level sports complex both for indoor and outdoor sports disciplines for which grants are released to States and Union Territories (UTs) in terms of the norms laid down under the Scheme based on proposals received from them.

Under the USIS, entities eligible to receive assistance for creation of sports infrastructure are State Governments, Local Civic Bodies, Schools, Colleges and Universities under Central/State Governments; and Sports Control Boards. Funds are granted to eligible entities as per norms laid down in the Scheme based on proposals received from them.

Statement-I

Details of Schemes being implemented by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports for promotion of sports in the country

- **“Rajiv Gandhi Khel Abhiyan” (RGKA)**, a centrally sponsored scheme introduced in 2014-15 in place of erstwhile Panchayat Yuva Krida aur Khel Abhiyan, aims at construction of Integrated Sports Complexes in all

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

block panchayats of the country in a phased manner and providing access to organized sports competitions at block, district, state and national levels.

- **Urban Sports Infrastructure Scheme, introduced in 2010-11**, envisages development of playfields by the State Governments through Playfield Associations, coach development programme through Central and State Governments, creation of infrastructure including laying of artificial turfs for hockey, football and athletics, and construction of multi-purpose hall. Under the Scheme, State Governments, local civic bodies, schools, colleges, universities and sports control boards are eligible for assistance.
- **Scheme of Assistance to National Sports Federations (NSFs)** for conduct of National Championships at Senior, Junior, Sub-Junior level for men and women, conduct of international tournaments in India, participation of sportspersons in international sports competitions, organizing coaching camps, engagement of foreign coaches, and procurement of sports equipments.
- **National Sports Development Fund (NSDF)** for various activities including giving assistance to elite athletes, who are medal prospects for their customized and tailor-made training and competition exposure.
- **Scheme of Human Resource Development in Sports** focuses on developing human resources in sports sciences and sports medicine for the overall development of sports and games in the country. The scheme also provides assistance to coaches and referees / judges to upgrade knowledge/accreditation level and assistance for participation in and conduct of seminars in India, etc.
- **Scheme of Special Cash Awards** for Winners of medals in international sports events and their coaches.
- **Scheme of Pension to Meritorious Sportspersons** after they retire from active sports career with the objective of providing them financial security and incentivizing sporting achievements.
- **Scheme of National Sports Awards**, viz, Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna, Arjuna Awards, Dronacharya Awards, Dhyanchand Awards for honouring them for their achievements and contributions as sportspersons and coaches.
- **National Welfare Fund for Sportspersons** for providing lump sum financial assistance to sportspersons now living in indigent conditions for their medical treatment etc.
- **Scheme of Sports and Games for Persons with Disabilities** for broad-basing of sports among differently-abled sportspersons by way of conduct of training for community coaches, conduct of sports competitions and providing assistance to schools/institutes having differently-abled sportspersons on their rolls for procurement of sports equipments and engagement of coaches on contract basis.

- **National Sports Talent Search Scheme (NSTSS)** The Ministry has launched this scheme which aims to identify the sporting talented children (Both Boys and Girls) in the age group of 8-12 in schools all over the country by conducting 6 battery of tests at each selection level on student in each school of block and develop them so as to enable them to participate in National and International sports events. The guidelines for the above scheme have been issued to all the Principal Secretary/Secretary of Sports of all States/UTs on 20th February, 2015. The scheme is proposed to be implemented from 2015-16 onwards.
- **Himalayan Region Sports Festival (HRSF)** Finance Minister, while presenting the Union Budget for 2014-15 on 10.07.2014, announced that “Unique sports traditions have developed in the Himalayan region in the countries and the states that are a part of it. To promote these, India will start an annual event to promote these games and would invite countries such as Nepal and Bhutan also to participate in addition to the Indian states such as Jammu and Kashmir, Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Sikkim and the North Eastern States.” Pursuant to this announcement, Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports has decided to organise annual sports even in the Himalayan Region and a scheme namely Himalayan Region Sports Festival (HRSF) has been formulated under which Competitions will be conducted in various disciplines including indigenous games of the region.

Statement-II

Details of Schemes being implemented by the Sports Authority of India for promotion and development of Sports

- (i) **National Sports Talent Contest (NSTC):** The main objective of the scheme is to identify gifted and talented sportspersons among school children in the age group of 8-14 years.
- (ii) **Army Boys Sports Companies (ABSC)** is implemented in collaboration with the Army. Children in the age group of 8-16 years are imparted scientific training to achieve excellence at national and international levels. The scheme also provides job opportunities in the Indian Army.
- (iii) **Special Area Games (SAG):** This Scheme follows an area-specific approach to scout and nurture talent for modern competitive games and sports from tribal, rural, coastal and hilly areas of the country. The main objective of the scheme is to train talented and meritorious sportspersons in the age group of 12-18 years.
- (iv) **SAI Training Centres (STC):** Under this scheme, talented youth in the age

group of 12-18 years are given the option to join the scheme on residential or non-residential basis.

- (v) **Centres of Excellence (COX):** The main objective of this scheme is to identify and train outstanding sportspersons who are medal prospects for the country in international competitions.

Slash in budgetary allocation for sports

1223. SHRI VIVEK GUPTA: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that the Central Plan outlay in 2015-16 is half the amount earmarked in budget estimates of 2014-15;

(b) if so, the details and reasons for aforementioned cut and where does Government proposes to decrease expenditure further;

(c) whether the allocation of 120 crores in 2015-16 is insufficient given the deplorable scenario of sports in the country, especially when budget allocation is less than 1/10th of the Demand for Grants by Ministry; and

(d) the reasons why Government has neglected the development of sports infrastructure and promotion of sportspersons in the allocation of 2015-16?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI SARBANANDA SONOWAL): (a) and (b) Allocation during 2014-15 for Department of Sports at Budget Estimates (BE) stage was ₹ 1259 crore, which was reduced to ₹ 705 crore at Revised Estimates (RE) stage. Budgetary allocation for Department of Sports for 2015-16 is ₹ 1005.48 crore, which is higher by ₹ 300.48 crore as compared to allocation at RE stage for Department of Sports during previous financial year 2014-15.

(c) As mentioned in reply to parts (a) and (b) above, allocation for Department of Sports for 2015-16 is ₹ 1005.48 crore, not ₹ 120 crore.

(d) The Government has not neglected the development of sports infrastructure and promotion of sportspersons in the allocation of 2015-16.

Financial allocation for development of traditional games

†1224. DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) the financial allocation made for development of traditional games including Kabaddi in the country during each of the last three years including current year; and

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