

of the event and Government has no role in it. Financial assistance is given by the Government to the players and to the support personnel within those limits and as per the Annual Calendar for Training and Competitions (ACTC).

It has been brought to the notice of the Government that during the Commonwealth Games held at Glasgow in 2014, the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) and the NSFs had sent officials over and above the contingent permitted by the Government. The cost of such officials was borne by the IOA and the NSFs from their funds and accreditations was provided by the games organisers.

BCCI like institutions for hockey and football

†479. SHRIMATI KAHKASHAN PERWEEN: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any other institutions like the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) for hockey and football also;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, whether Government has made any specific plan to encourage hockey and football; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI SARBANANDA SONOWAL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Promotion and development of sports disciplines including hockey and football is the primary responsibility of State Governments and the concerned National Sports Federations (NSFs). Government has given recognition to Hockey India (HI) and All India Football Federation (AIFF) as NSFs for promotion and development of hockey and football in the country.

Government of India recognizes the importance of these sports in India, their popularity among the masses and medal prospects of India in various international events, etc. Keeping these factors in view, the Ministry has placed the sports of hockey and football in the 'high priority' category so that they get maximum admissible financial assistance and support under the Scheme of Assistance to National Sports Federations. Government has spent a substantial amount of its budget from

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi

the Scheme of Assistance to National Sports Federations on hiring foreign coaches, training/coaching camps, creating infrastructure, etc. An amount of ₹ 8005.86 lakh was spent on the sport of hockey and ₹ 2220.78 lakh on football from the Central Government budget during the last three years, i.e., from 2013-14 to 2015-16 (upto June 2015).

Fixing age for identifying talented sportspersons

480. PROF. M.V. RAJEEV GOWDA : Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) the rationale behind Government fixing the age for identifying talent from only 8-12 years as per the guidelines issued by the Ministry on 20th February, 2015;

(b) whether the guidelines were framed after due consultation with all the stakeholders in the process;

(c) whether Government has any existing programme which concentrates on identifying sports talent from the age of 12-18 years; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI SARBANANDA SONOWAL): (a) For the purpose of promoting excellence in sports, it is essential that with a view to “catch them young and teach them rightly” through scientific training methods, sporting talent is searched for, spotted and nurtured in a methodical manner in order to reach such a state of sporting excellence as to be able to become medal prospects in various international events.

It was with this rationale that the age for identifying talent was fixed from 8-12 years as per the guidelines issued by the Ministry on 20th February, 2015.

(b) The National Sports Talent Search Scheme (NSTSS) was formulated after consultation with States already having a system of sports talent scouting operational therein.

(c) and (d) Sports Authority of India is implementing the following Sports Promotional Schemes in the country which concentrate on identifying sports talent from the age group of 12-18 years :—

National Sports Talent Contest Scheme (NSTC)

Army Boys Sports Company (ABSC)

Special Area Games (SAG)

SAI Training Center (STC)