

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)

Centre of Excellence (COX)

National Sports Academies

Extension Centre of STC/SAG

Come and Play

Under the above mentioned Sports Promotional Schemes, apart from various age groups talented sportspersons in the age group of 12-18 years are identified and nurtured to excel in their respective sports disciplines at national/international level competitions.

The SAI Training Centre (STC) Scheme and Special Area Games (SAG) Scheme especially cater to the need of sportspersons in the age group of 12-18 years. At present 11,062 talented sportspersons (7674 Male and 3388 Female) on Residential and Non Residential basis are trained in 254 SAI Centres spread over the country.

***WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED AND UNSTARRED
QUESTIONS SET FOR THE 30th NOVEMBER, 2015**

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS

Impact of electromagnetic waves on insects and birds

*1. DR. T. N. SEEMA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware about many studies/reports indicating that the electromagnetic waves emitted by mobile phone towers and cell phones kill honey bees and thereby pose threat to bee population in the country;

(b) whether Government is also aware that this dominant source of electromagnetic radiation in the urban areas could well be the cause behind mysterious disappearance of butterflies, some insects and birds;

(c) if so, the reaction of Government thereto; and

(d) the remedial steps taken by Government to deal with all forms of electro pollution of the environment and the deadly electro-smog created by mobile phone towers and cell phones?

\$ Due to discussion on commitment to India's Constitution as part of the 125 Birth Anniversary Celebration of Dr. B. R. Ambedkar, Answers to Questions put down in the list for 30.11.2015 were laid on the Table of the House on Wednesday, 2nd December 2015.