

(b) and (c) Government recognizes the role of sports and physical education in the holistic development of children and youth in the country. As part of this policy, the Government has made access to play fields a mandatory requirement for all schools under the Right to Education Act. Similarly University Grants Commission (Affiliation of Colleges by Universities) Regulations, 2009 stipulate that there shall be a multipurpose complex/an auditorium and facilities for sports, canteen, health care etc.

Decentralisation of sports activities

†2398. SHRI SANJAY SETH: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken or proposes to take any steps to prepare a time bound programme to encourage talented children to participate in sports at district level and decentralisation of sports activities;

(b) if so, the details thereof as on date; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI VIJAY GOEL): (a) and (b) Sports is a State subject and, therefore, promotion of Sports is primarily the responsibility of the State Government. The Central Government complements/supplements the efforts of the State Governments. A Scheme called "Khelo India - National Programme for Development of Sports" is being implemented by this Ministry as a Central Sector Scheme from the current financial year 2016-17. This Scheme, *inter-alia*, provides for holding of sports competitions in two age groups of (i) under 14 and (ii) under 17 all over India to encourage mass participation of both boys and girls in Sports in both urban and rural areas. The talented sportspersons will be identified through sports competitions. Such identified talented players will be given preference for induction in various sports promotional schemes of the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports /SAI, wherever feasible and if the identified player so desires. This Ministry, through Sports Authority of India (SAI) is implementing various Schemes for promotion of sports amongst the youth including rural youth. Details are given in Statement [Refer to the Statement appended to the answer to USQ No. 2393 part (a) and (b)]

(c) Does not arise.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.