

Steps to develop competence of rural sports persons

892. SHRI DARA SINGH: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have till date formulated any scheme to identify promising young sportsmen in rural areas of Punjab and Maharashtra in particular and other States in general in the country, with a view to develop their competence;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) by when, the above mentioned schemes are likely to be identified/implemented by Government with particular reference to Punjab and Maharashtra?

THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI SUNIL DUTT): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. With a view to broadbasing games and sports and tapping the hidden talent in the rural areas of the country, including the States of Punjab and Maharashtra, Government of India is implementing a scheme named 'Rural Sports Programme' since 1970-71. Under the scheme, full financial assistance is provided to States/UTs for conducting District and State level rural sports tournaments. A National level rural sports tournament and a North East sports festival are also organized under the aegis of the Sports Authority of India. Besides, Sports Authority of India is also implementing schemes titled 'National Sports Talent Contest' and 'Special area Games', under which children between the age of 8-14 years and youth between the age group of 14—21 years are selected through a scientifically designed battery of tests at block, district and regional level trials.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Setting up youth hostel at Hosur, Tamil Nadu

893. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up a youth hostel at Hosur in Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?