

Development of playgrounds in all gram panchayats, however, can be taken up in convergence with the scheme of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) and any other scheme(s) of the State Government/ Central Government.

Construction of playgrounds at panchayat level

†2240. SHRI RAM NATH THAKUR: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government has decided to construct a playground for the youth at every panchayat level in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the number of panchayats where playgrounds have been constructed so far and the number of playgrounds in Bihar along with their locations, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (COL. RAJYAVARDHAN SINGH RATHORE): (a) to (c) No, Sir. Sports is a State Subject and promotion and development of sports in the country, including development of basic sports infrastructure, is primarily the responsibility of the State Government. The Central Government complements/supplements the efforts of the State Governments through various sports promotional schemes.

A Centrally Sponsored Scheme, namely, Panchayat Yuva Krida Aur Khel Abhiyan (PYKKA) was being implemented by this Ministry during the period from 2008-09 to 2013-14 for development of basic sports infrastructure and encourage mass participation through conduct of sports competitions. Under the PYKKA Scheme, *inter alia*, funds were granted to States/UTs for development and maintenance of playgrounds at Village and Block Panchayats. Under the Scheme, funds to the tune of ₹806.60 crore were released for development of playgrounds in 65735 Village Panchayats and 1978 block panchayats out of which 63214 playgrounds have been developed in the entire country. A total of 239 playgrounds have been developed in Bihar under the PYKKA Scheme. Information regarding the total number of playgrounds in Bihar and their locations is not maintained by Central Government.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.