

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS & SPORTS
(DEPARTMENT OF SPORTS)

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2400
ANSWERED ON 09.08.2021

PROMOTION OF TRADITIONAL AND RURAL SPORTS/GAMES

2400 SHRI ANIL DESAI:

Will the Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that there are a number of sports and games in our rural areas which are being played for generations and some of which are at the verge of extinction;
- (b) the steps taken/being taken by Government to revive traditional sports in India; and
- (c) whether a national catalogue of all the games of past generations can be created in consultation with State Governments for the revival of ancient form of games for the knowledge of present and future generations?

ANSWER
THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS & SPORTS
(SHRI ANURAG SINGH THAKUR)

(a) and (b) There are a number of sports and games played in the rural areas of the country. 'Sports' being a State subject, the responsibility of reviving traditional sports primarily rests with the State/Union Territory Governments. Central Government supplements their efforts. However, this Ministry runs a Central Sector Scheme, namely, 'Khelo India – National Programme for Development of Sports' Scheme, wherein one of the verticals, namely, 'Promotion of rural and indigenous/tribal games', is dedicated to development and promotion of rural and indigenous/tribal games in the country. Mallakhamb, Kalaripayattu, Gatka and Thang-Ta have been identified under this vertical for support. These indigenous games are being promoted and supported with the objective to showcase the sports to a global audience and foster international participation and competition in the sports. Grants are sanctioned for infrastructure development, equipment support, appointment of coaches, training of coaches and scholarships in these disciplines.

(c) This Ministry has made documentaries of various indigenous games in order to promote/revive them, namely, Gatka, Roll Ball, Tug of War, Kalaripayattu, Thang-Ta, Kho-Kho, Mallakhamb, Shooting Ball, Sqay, Kabaddi, Gilli Danda, Sikkim Archery, Dhoop Khel and Cowrie Khel, Paika Akhada and Chhau and Akhada Kushti, Hekko, Mizoram Games, Silabam, Lagori and Langadi. The documentaries have been uploaded on the digital repository of the Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat website (www.ekbharat.gov.in).
