

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS & SPORTS
(DEPARTMENT OF SPORTS)
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO- 1119
ANSWERED ON- 13/02/2025

PROMOTION OF TAMIL NADU'S TRADITIONAL SPORTS

1119 SHRI M. MOHAMED ABDULLA:

Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state :-

- (a) whether Government has taken steps in the last five years to document, preserve, and promote Tamil Nadu's traditional sports;
- (b) the details of funds allocated and utilized for developing indigenous sports like Kabaddi and Silambam in Tamil Nadu during this period;
- (c) the measures taken to provide international recognition and opportunities for athletes in these sports; and
- (d) whether Government plans to establish a dedicated centre or academy in Tamil Nadu for training and promoting traditional sports and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS & SPORTS

(DR. MANSUKH MANDAVIYA)

(a) 'Sports' being a State subject, the responsibility of development of sports, including promotion of traditional sports and martial arts, rests primarily with the respective State/Union Territory Governments. The Union Government only supplements their efforts by bridging critical gaps. However, the 'Promotion of rural and indigenous/tribal games' sub-component of the Khelo India Scheme, is specifically dedicated to the development and promotion of rural and indigenous games in the country. Indigenous games like Mallakhamb, Kalaripayattu, Gatka, Thang-Ta, Yogasana and Silambam have been identified for promotion under this component and were made part of Khelo India Games.

(b) Funds are allocated Scheme-wise, not Discipline-wise in this Ministry. The details of the funds allocated and spent by this Ministry under various sports promotional schemes, including for developing indigenous sports like Kabaddi and Silambam in Tamil Nadu, during the last five years are as under:

(in Rs. crore)

S. No.	Financial Year	Funds allocated	Expenditure incurred
1	2019-20	2000.00	1989.39
2	2020-21	1313.40	1304.12
3	2021-22	1993.00	1748.76
4	2022-23	1907.69	1879.99
5	2023-24	2380.86	2329.35

(c) and (d) The Sports Authority of India (SAI), an autonomous body under the aegis of this Ministry, is promoting traditional and indigenous games by supporting training centers in disciplines like Silambam, Kalaripayatu, Khomlainai, Gatka, Mukna, and Thang-Ta under the Indigenous Games & Martial Arts (IGMA) section of the National Sports Talent Contest (NSTC) scheme. In Tamil Nadu, institutions such as Sri Vivekananda Vidyalayam in Ambur and Govt. Girls Higher Secondary School in Thanjavur are involved in Silambam. Additionally, Kabaddi is part of the SAI Training Centres (STC) scheme in the State, with centers in Chennai and Mayiladuthurai. Under both schemes, trainees receive stipends, sports kits, insurance, and financial support for boarding, lodging, and exposure to domestic competitions.
