

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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.4310
TO BE ANSWERED ON 04.04.2018

Special Area Games

4310. SHRI K.C. RAMAMURTHY:

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

- (a) whether Ministry is implementing Special Area Games to identify sports talent among tribals and remote backward and hilly areas;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and since how long this scheme is being implemented;
- (c) the success that the Ministry could achieve in identifying talent and taking that talent to the international level;
- (d) whether it is a fact that only 57 crores was provided in 2014-15 for this and this has been enhanced by just 4 crores in 2016-17;
- (e) the details of RE for this in 2017-18 and 2018-19; and
- (f) whether this amount of funds is sufficient for this scheme?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR
YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS
{ COL. RAJYAVARDHAN RATHORE (RETD.) }

(a) & (b): Government of India through Sports Authority of India (SAI), is implementing Special Area Games (SAG) Scheme to identify sporting talent in the age of 10-18 years from the tribal, backward and hilly areas of the country.

The Special Area Games (SAG) Scheme was introduced in 1986 which lay emphasis on identification of natural talent for modern competitive sports and games from the tribal and remote backward and hilly areas of the country. The scheme also helps to tap talent in Indigenous Games and Martial Arts and from the communities which are either genetically or geographically advantageous for excellence in a particular sports discipline. The selected trainees

under SAG Scheme are provided with financial support in the form of expert coaches, sports equipment, boarding and lodging, sports kit, competition exposure, educational expenses, medical/ insurance and stipend as per the approved scheme norms.

Presently, there are 20 Special Area Games Centres functional in the country where 2167 talented sports persons (1189 boys and 978 girls) are being trained.

(c) SAI SAG Scheme has been quite successful as the sports persons identified under SAI SAG Scheme have brought laurels to the country in the National and International sports competitions.

The scheme has produced number of International sports persons since its inception. Some of the prominent names are Mary C. Kom, Lairemsanga, Sarita Devi & Dingko Singh (Boxing), Limba Ram, Shyamlal Meena, Lal Ram Sangha & Rajinder Guhia (Archery), Ferdina Ikka, Halen Soy & Bimla Kujur (Hockey), Sanamacha Chanu and Lakahoni Devi (Weight Lifting).

The number of medals won by SAG Scheme trainees during the last three years at National and International sports competitions are as under: -

Year	National	International
2014-15	291	22
2015-16	276	23
2016-17	232	34

(d) In 2014-2015, Rs.57.20 crores were allocated for implementation of all the SAI Sports Promotional Schemes including the scheme of Special Area Games. The details of fund allocation for implementation of SAG Scheme since 2014-15 to 2018-19 is as under:

Year	Amount
2014-2015	Rs.11.50 Crores
2015-2016	Rs.13.00 Crores
2016-2017	Rs.12.75 Crores
2017-2018	Rs.14.95 Crores
2018-2019	Rs. 16.44 Crores (projected)

(e) The details of Budget Estimate for the scheme as given in (d) above were not revised at Revised Estimate stage in 2017-18.

(f) Yes, madam.
