

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

RAJYA SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-153

ANSWERED ON- 02/02/2023

PROMOTION OF SPORTS AMONG SCHOOL CHILDREN

153. # SHRI HARBHAJAN SINGH:

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

- (a) whether Government is aware that academic pressure and sedentary lifestyle among children are leading to disinclinations towards active sports;
- (b) whether Government has any proposal to encourage children, particularly in schools for their active participation in sports activities;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reason therefor;
- (d) whether there is any proposal for mandatory involvement of school children in sports; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS

(SHRI ANURAG SINGH THAKUR)

(a) to (e) Education comes under the Concurrent List of the Constitution. With majority of schools falling under the respective State Examination Boards, the school curriculum is largely determined by the State Governments. However, as per the National Education Policy (NEP)-2020, sports-

integration is a cross-curricular pedagogical approach that utilizes physical activities including indigenous sports, to help in developing skills such as collaboration, self-initiative, self-direction, self-discipline, teamwork, responsibility, citizenship, etc. The NEP-2020 also provides for students to adopt fitness as a lifelong attitude. No such study is available with this Ministry which indicates the disinclination of students towards sports due to academic pressure and sedentary lifestyle among children.

This Ministry implements the Khelo India Scheme with the twin objectives of mass participation and promotion of excellence in sports, and various programmes have been launched under this scheme to promote sports and to improve the level of sports and infrastructural facilities, including stadiums, playing fields, tracks and sports training in the country at the school level. The various initiatives undertaken to encourage sports activities in schools under the Khelo India Scheme include:

- a) Annual Sports Competitions, such as the Khelo India Games which have completed six editions with a total participation of more than 27,190 athletes, 6902 support staff, 5072 technical officials and 6997 volunteers. In fact, currently, the 4th Khelo India Youth Games (KIYG) are underway in Madhya Pradesh;
- b) Khelo India Talent Search and Development;
- c) Khelo India Centres & Sports Academies; and,
- d) FIT India Movement.

In addition to the above, as envisioned by the Hon'ble Prime Minister, the "Meet the Champions" programme has been introduced to sensitize school kids on the importance of a balanced diet and nutrition, and to motivate them to participate in sports/fitness activities, wherein the Olympians and Paralympians are to visit 75 schools. So far, 56 such meets have been held.

Further, this Ministry, through the Sports Authority of India (SAI), also implements the following Sports Promotional Schemes to identify talented sportspersons, including school children, in various age groups, and to nurture them to excel at national and international levels:-

- i) National Centres of Excellence (NCoE)
- ii) SAI Training Centre (STC)
- iii) Extension Centre of STC

- iv) National Sports Talent Contest (NSTC)–The selected athletes are provided 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 norms.
