

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS

RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION No. 8
ANSWERED ON 20/07/2023

Support to Indian sports at rural level

*8. **Dr. Sumer Singh Solanki:**

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

- a) whether Government proposes to improve the Indian sports at the rural level through Non - Governmental Organizations (NGOs)/Voluntary Organizations (VOs) and other organizations;
- b) if so, the details thereof;
- c) whether Government proposes to ask the State Governments to provide land for promotion of sports in the country; and
- d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (d): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) IN RESPECT OF RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 8 FOR REPLY ON 20.07.2023 REGARDING SUPPORT TO INDIAN SPORTS AT RURAL LEVEL ASKED BY DR. SUMER SINGH SOLANKI.

(a) and (b): The Government implements the Khelo India Scheme with twin objectives of mass participation and promotion of excellence in sports across the country. One of the components of this Scheme, 'Promotion of rural and indigenous/tribal games' is specifically dedicated to the rural sector of the country. Further, as per the criteria laid down in the National Sports Development Code of India, 2011, this Ministry grants recognition to the National Sports Federations (NSFs), which are in the nature non-governmental bodies, for promotion and development of the respective sports disciplines in the entire country. This makes the NSFs eligible to receive financial and other forms of support from the Government for training of athletes, participation in international events, conduct of national championships, conduct of international tournaments in India, engagement of foreign coaches/support staff, scientific and medical support, etc.

(c) and (d): 'Sports' being a State subject, the primary responsibility to promote sports at rural level and construct new stadiums or sports complexes rests with the respective State/Union Territory Governments. The Union Government supplements these efforts. However, this Ministry also sanctions funds for creation/upgradation of various sports infrastructure projects under the Khelo India Scheme, across the country, including the rural areas, on the basis of proposals received from various State/UT Governments and other eligible entities. The Ministry sanctions funds for creation of sports infrastructure projects also under the National Sports Development Fund (NSDF) Scheme as well as Sports Authority of India (SAI) Block Grants. Most of the above sports infrastructure are developed on land owned by the various States Governments/local authorities or taken on long-lease from them.
