

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1826
ANSWERED ON 11.12.2024

BHARATIYA KHEL INITIATIVE

1826. Smt Renuka Chowdhury:

Will the Minister of Education be pleased to state:

- (a) the funds allocated and utilized under the Bharatiya Khel initiative as part of the Indian Knowledge System (IKS) initiative since its launch;
- (b) whether it is a fact that only 1500 schools have been registered under Bharatiya Khel initiative which aimed at promoting Indigenous sports in schools since its launch, if so, the reason behind such low registration; and
- (c) whether the government has taken any steps to promote Bharatiya Khel initiative in the schools, if so, details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

(DR. SUKANTA MAJUMDAR)

(a) to (c): National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 emphasizes on the importance of sports in education and bringing sports in mainstream education. Para 4.8 of NEP 2020 states "Sports-integration is another cross-curricular pedagogical approach that utilizes physical activities including indigenous sports, in pedagogical practices to help in developing skills such as collaboration, self-initiative, self-direction, self-discipline, teamwork, responsibility, citizenship, etc."

Bhāratīya Khel were recognised in 2022 in line with the vision put forth by NEP 2020. It has introduced 75 Bhāratīya games to school students in order to ensure their physical and mental fitness. The programme also fosters a sense of national integration, since many of these games are played across the length and breadth of Bhārat. The programme is in line with the Panch Pran, as it debunks the notion that fitness is a western notion and reiterates the priority given to fitness by our culture, since time immemorial.

Since its inception in 2022, the following measures have been taken to popularize the awareness of indigenous sports among the students;

- i. D/o School Education & Literacy has issued revised sport guideline in order to promote the 75 indigenous games in schools across the country. Shiksha Saptah as a week-long program from July 22nd to 28th July, 2024 has been organised to mark the 4th anniversary of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020. The third day of Shiksha Saptah, i.e., 24.07.2024 was celebrated as Sports Day focussing on indigenous games and the importance of sports in holistic development. Approximately 4.54 cr participants including 4.28 cr students & 20 lakh teachers from around 5.22 lakh schools, attended this event.
- ii. Indoor games like Sarpa-Rajju or Buddhiyoga, Bagh-Bakri were exhibited as part of events like G20, Kashi-Tamil Sangamam, Akhil Bharatiya Shiksha Samagam (ABSS) where over 5 lakh participants have been exposed to these games and have got a deeper appreciation of the Bharatiya Drishti or worldview underlying them.
- iii. NCERT has included a section on indigenous games in its compulsory physical education curriculum for promoting health and well-being in the long term as part of implementation of NEP.
