

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS & SPORTS
(DEPARTMENT OF SPORTS)
RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO-355
ANSWERED ON- 03/04/2025

PROMOTION OF PUNJAB'S TRADITIONAL SPORTS

355. DR. VIKRAMJIT SINGH SAHNEY:

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

- (a) the details of the steps taken by Government to promote traditional sports like Gatka;
- (b) the details of funds allocated and utilised for developing indigenous sports of Punjab in last three years;
- (c) the steps taken to provide international recognition and opportunities for athletes in these sports;
- (d) whether Government plans to establish a dedicated centre or academy in Punjab for training and promoting traditional sports; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS & SPORTS

(DR. MANSUKH MANDAVIYA)

- (a) to (e) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) IN RESPECT OF RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 355 FOR REPLY ON 03.04.2025 REGARDING PROMOTION OF PUNJAB'S TRADITIONAL SPORTS ASKED BY DR. VIKRAMJIT SINGH SAHNEY.

(a) 'Sports' being a State subject, the responsibility of development of sports, including promotion of traditional sports, 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.

Further, under the Khelo India Scheme, State-level Indigenous Sports Leagues and Competitions are conducted to revitalize traditional sports, engage youth, and provide competitive platforms for athletes to showcase their skills. These leagues are organized by the Regional Centres (RC) of the Sports Authority of India (SAI), legitimate federations of sports concerned, or State Governments. The Gatka discipline league was held in Patiala, Punjab from 10th to 12th January, 2025, with an expenditure of Rs. 16 lakhs, including prize money, for its successful conduct.

(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 Gatka in the State of Punjab, during the last three years are as under:

(in Rs. crore)

S. No.	Financial Year	Funds allocated	Expenditure incurred
1	2021-22	1993.00	1748.76
2	2022-23	1907.69	1879.99
3	2023-24	2380.86	2329.35

(c) to (e) Under Khelo India Scheme, capacity building of sports is ensured through the standardized conduct of the Khelo India Games, which has played a key role in transitioning indigenous sports from practice and demonstration to fully recognized competitive events. This initiative is crucial in making indigenous sports globally popular and, over time, to help them achieve international recognition. Further, two academies viz. Sant Baba Bhag Singh Gatka Academy (SBBSGA) in Khiala, Jalandhar District, Punjab and Ismaa Academy in Chandigarh, Punjab are supported in Punjab for training and promoting traditional sports.

In addition, 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. As part of this scheme, International Fateh Academy, Jandiala, Guru, Amritsar with 20 athletes is functional for promoting Gatka in the state of Punjab. Under this, trainees receive stipends, sports kits, insurance, and financial support for equipment and exposure to domestic competitions.
