

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS & SPORTS
(DEPARTMENT OF SPORTS)
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO- 3357
ANSWERED ON- 21/08/2025

ACCESS AND SAFETY OF PUBLIC PLAYGROUNDS FOR CHILDREN

3357. SHRI SANJAY RAUT:

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

- (a) whether Government has conducted any nationwide survey to assess availability and condition of public playgrounds for children in urban and rural areas;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether many playgrounds have been lost due to illegal encroachments or commercialization and whether there is any plan to mandate at least one safe, open play area per ward or village;
- (d) the steps being taken to ensure lighting, CCTV surveillance and safety personnel in children's parks; and
- (e) whether Government will enforce open space norms in private housing and double playground availability across all districts?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS & SPORTS

(DR. MANSUKH MANDAVIYA)

(a) to (e) 'Sports' being a State subject, the responsibility of development of sports, including development and maintenance of playgrounds, rests primarily with the State/Union Territory Governments. The Union Government supplements their efforts by bridging critical gaps. The Government recognizes the importance of accessible and safe public play areas for children's development. While no dedicated national survey has been conducted to assess playgrounds, relevant data is collected through schemes like the Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) and the Smart Cities Mission, which support the creation and improvement of parks and open spaces. Local authorities handle issues like encroachments, as land use and planning are under the jurisdiction of State Governments and Urban Local Bodies (ULBs). States are advised to include recreational areas in Master Plans, and construction of playgrounds is a permissible activity under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) in rural areas. Safety and maintenance of parks are managed by local bodies, with support from central schemes for infrastructure improvements such as lighting, Closed-Circuit Television (CCTV) surveillance, and other safety measures. Open space norms in private housing developments are governed by State-specific rules, aligned with the Model Building Bye-laws, 2016. While there is no plan to mandate more playgrounds, States are encouraged to prioritize this across the country.
