

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS
(DEPARTMENT OF SPORTS)
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1387
TO BE ANSWERED ON 09.03.2017**

Availability of Young Sportspersons

†1387. SHRI GOPAL SHETTY:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that aged sportspersons having old techniques are selected to represent the country in various sports at international events due to non-availability of adequate number of young sportspersons;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the reasons for non-availability of adequate number of young sportspersons for various sports;

(c) the total number of cricket, hockey, football, volleyball and kabaddi matches lost by India during the last three years at the international events; and

(d) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to ensure the availability of adequate number of young sportspersons for international events?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR
YOUTH AFFAIRS & SPORTS
(SHRI VIJAY GOEL)**

(a) & (b) Madam, National Sports Federations (NSFs) are primarily responsible for judicious selection of sportspersons for participation in major international events based on merit and with the objective of enhancing national prestige and bringing glory to the country. NSFs are required to undertake such selections in a transparent and fair manner with expert evaluations of the performance of the sportsperson so selected. Government has already issued guidelines for fair selection of athletes and is not directly associated with the selection of athletes. In the recently held international events including the Olympics many young athletes participated after achieving qualification criteria. Hence, it is not correct to say that aged sportspersons were fielded in international sports events. Many of those who are so selected are young sportspersons.

(c) The Government does not maintain such data.

(d) The Government of India is implementing a number of schemes, inter alia, aiming at availability of adequate number of young sportspersons for international events on continuous basis. With a view to giving a boost to the preparation of Indian athletes for mega international events and enhancing the medal hopes of the country, the Government has made upward revision of various financial parameters under the Scheme of Assistance to National Sports Federations. As per the revised norms, the amount for holding National Championships is Rs.5 lakhs for seniors, Rs.7 lakhs for juniors and Rs.10 lakhs for sub-juniors. This will help catch sporting talent young.
