

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS & SPORTS  
(DEPARTMENT OF SPORTS)**

**LOK SABHA  
STARRED QUESTION NO. †\*160  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 28.12.2017**

**Sports Promotion in Rural/Hilly/ Remote areas**

**†\*160. SHRI PRATAPRAO JADHAV:  
PROF. RAVINDRA VISHWANATH GAIKWAD:**

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

**(a) whether any special campaign has been/is being run to promote sports talents in rural areas in the country particularly in Vidarbha region in Maharashtra and if so, the details thereof, region-wise;**

**(b) if not, the reasons therefor along with the scheme formulated/being formulated for encouraging sports talents in rural/hilly/remote regions in the country;**

**(c) whether the Government proposes to implement such schemes at the village/ panchayat level and provide free sports material to enrich the sports talents;**

**(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and**

**(e) the number of recommendations/ suggestions received by the Government from each State regarding development of sports in the country during the last three years, State-wise and the steps taken in the light of those recommendations?**

**ANSWER  
THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE)  
FOR YOUTH AFFAIRS & SPORTS  
{COL. RAJYAVARDHAN RATHORE (RETD.)}**

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

**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. †\*160 FOR 28.12.2017 ASKED BY SHRI PRATAPRAO JADHAV AND PROF. RAVINDRA VISHWANATH GAIKWAD, MPs, REGARDING SPORTS PROMOTION IN RURAL/HILLY/ REMOTE AREAS**

**(a) & (b) Sports being a State subject, promotion and development of Sports in the country is primarily the responsibility of the State Government. In order to complement/supplement the efforts of the State Governments in this regard, the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports has been implementing various schemes for promotion of sports in the entire country, including Vidarbha region in Maharashtra, through creation/development of sports infrastructure and conduct of annual sports competitions.**

**The “Khelo India – National Programme for Development of Sports” Scheme, inter-alia includes a vertical of ‘Talent Identification and Development’, to identify and develop sporting talents from across the country, including rural areas of the country. The relevant provisions of the Scheme are given in Annexure – I. The Scheme also provides for holding of annual rural and indigenous/tribal games, national level competitions and aims at disseminating information to present generation about these games and also encourage children and youth to take up these games in a major way, paving way for their future mainstreaming.**

**In addition, the Sports Authority of India (SAI), an autonomous organization under the aegis of Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, is implementing a number of sports promotional schemes across the country to identify talented sports persons in the age group of 8-25 years and nurture them to excel at national and international competitions. Many of the sports persons selected under the above schemes are identified from the rural, tribal and backward areas of the country.**

**Presently, under SAI Sports Promotional Schemes 14,505 talented sports person (10195 boys and 4310 girls) are being provided with regular sports training in 27 sports disciplines on residential and non-residential basis in 303 SAI sports centres.**

**The scheme is applicable all over India including rural/ hilly/ remote areas.**

**(c) & (d) The above Schemes give opportunity to the youth residing in village/panchayat areas to be considered for selection. Further, under the sports promotional schemes of SAI, there is provision for providing sports kits and equipment for the trainees.**

**(e) Details of the number of recommendations/ suggestions received by the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports, from each State regarding development of sports in the country during the last three years, State-wise and the steps taken in the light of those recommendations, is being compiled and will be placed on the Table of the House.**

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**ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) AND (b) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. †\*160 FOR 28.12.2017 ASKED BY SHRI PRATAPRAO JADHAV AND PROF. RAVINDRA VISHWANATH GAIKWAD, MPs, REGARDING SPORTS PROMOTION IN RURAL/HILLY/REMOTE AREAS**

**Annexure – I**

**Relevant provisions for nurturing sports talent under the Khelo India Scheme**

The National competitions involving schools, colleges, Universities and NSFs under Khelo India Scheme, National Championships, and National Sports Talent Search Portal of SAI, will provide a platform for identification of talented sports persons in priority Sports disciplines in which the country has potential/advantage. In addition to selection of prize winners, the duly constituted talent identification committee may also adopt globally accepted scientific methods to spot and identify talent in various sports disciplines. The identification of talented sportspersons will be done in a transparent manner through competitive performance and assessment made through scientifically designed battery of tests. Further, a National Talent Search Portal has been launched recently which will provide seamless access to upload individual achievements. In addition, the Gujarat model of mobile van will be adopted for carrying out scientific evaluation at remote places for better identification of the talented sportspersons. During the talent identification drive sporting talent hubs, discipline wise, including indigenous games, shall be identified and duly mapped. Efforts will be made through sports academies to conduct special programmes to encourage such specific sport / game in that area.

Out of the talented players identified in priority sports disciplines at various levels through different avenues, best talents in those sports discipline will be identified by the High Powered Committee and provided annual financial assistance, at the rate of Rs.5.00 lakh per annum, for a period of 8 years under a Long Term Athlete Development Programme. Continuation of support to an individual athlete will be subject to his/her progress/performance in the identified sports discipline concerned, ensuring the best performers, having potential to excel at the highest level, are given continuous support and non-performers/ non achievers can be taken out of the system. This will ensure a sizable bench strength that the country is lacking at present. Additional funding requirement, if any, shall be met through mobilizing CSR support.

An amount of Rs.10 crore annually will be earmarked for maintenance of the Online Portal, identification of sporting talents through different avenues, including through advanced scientific profiling, short listing of talents and recommending the best talents for providing support. Identification of sporting talent will involve conduct of pan-India trials involving about 50,000 to 1,00,000 children by Talent Scouts (to be engaged for the purpose), in association with States/UTs. An amount of Rs.50 crore will be earmarked annually for providing annual financial assistance, at the rate of Rs.5.00 lakh per annum for 1000 athletes, for a period of 8 years, to identified athletes, under a Long Term Athlete Development Programme. Thus, Rs. 60 crore (Rs. 50 crore for talent nurturing towards Training / Coaching, Consumables & Equipment, Sports Nutrition support, Sports Science Support etc., and Rs. 10 crore for maintenance of online portal, Identification of Talent through trials,

shortlisting of identified talents through Scientific profiling etc.). In the second year, when additional 1000 athletes are added, Rs. 110 crore (Rs. 50 crore each for first year and second year athletes for their talent nurturing and Rs. 10 crore for talent search and development) and so on. The expenditure will be incurred on various components mentioned above and no fee/scholarship will be paid to the athlete.

Department of Sports will provide financial assistance as well as overall guidance, supervision and monitoring. Implementation will be through SAI and involve State Governments as well as reputed athletes and private bodies. International experts shall also be engaged for project implementation.

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