

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2939
TO BE ANSWERED ON 04.01.2018**

Promotion of Traditional Sports

2939. SHRI RAJESH KUMAR DIWAKER:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Government is considering to promote traditional sports;**
- (b) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this regard and the details thereof;**
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor;**
- (d) whether in the past the Government has taken any initiative to organise traditional sports events in the country; and**
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?**

ANSWER

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

(a) Yes, Madam.

(b) & (c) A Scheme called “Khelo India – National Programme for Development of Sports” was formulated by the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports to promote sports through creation of sports infrastructure and conduct of annual sports competitions in the entire country, and implemented from the financial year 2016-17. The earlier Khelo India Scheme, which has been revised and revamped during the current financial year 2017-18, inter-alia includes a vertical of ‘Promotion of

rural and indigenous/tribal games'. Under this vertical, in order to showcase our rural and indigenous/tribal games, annual competitions will be held annually under the Khelo India Scheme in rural and indigenous/tribal games alternately. A dynamic and interactive website providing information on such games will also be put up. This will not only help disseminate information and pique the curiosity of the present generation about these games but 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 this Ministry also promotes Indigenous Games and Martial Arts (IGMA). Under the IGMA scheme SAI has adopted 10 schools having a total strength of 168 trainees (104 Boys & 64 Girls) for Organizing Competition for Scouting Talent.

In order to revive such games and promote them among the masses, SAI has adopted the following indigenous games disciplines for their promotion :

- a) Kalaripayatu, Kerala**
- b) Silambam, Tamilnadu**
- c) Kabaddi, Telengana**
- d) Archery, Jharkhand**
- e) Malkhamb, Maharashtra**
- f) Mukna, Imphal**
- g) Thangta, Imphal**
- h) Khomlainai, Assam**
- i) Gatka, Punjab**

The trainees and the schools adopted in the IGMA scheme are provided with the sports kit, accidental insurance including medical, stipend, annual grant to the school for purchase of equipment and for organizing competitions for scouting talent.

(d) & (e) Under the erstwhile schemes of Panchayat Yuva Krida aur Khel Abhiyan (PYKKA), Rajiv Gandhi Khel Abhiyan (RGKA) and the pre-revised Khelo India Scheme, annual competitions were conducted in identified sports disciplines which included Kabaddi and Kho-Kho.
