

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

**LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. *395
TO BE ANSWERED ON 22.03.2018**

Development of Sporting Culture

***395. DR. MANOJ RAJORIA:
ADV. JOICE GEORGE:**

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

(a) whether the sporting culture in India has been found lacking and if so, the reasons therefor along with the reaction of the Government thereto;

(b) whether the Government has taken major initiatives to revive and develop the sporting culture in the country from the grassroot level and if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the pool of talent created at the local community, school and university levels needs much improvement in terms of quantity and quality, if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(d) whether the Government proposes to invest with a long term view to develop the sporting culture and generate sports talents and if so, the details thereof?

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

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. *395 FOR 22.03.2018 ASKED BY DR. MANOJ RAJORIA AND ADV. JOICE GEORGE, MPS, REGARDING DEVELOPMENT OF SPORTING CULTURE

(a)to (d) India has a long tradition and history of sports and sporting culture is prevalent throughout the country in varying degrees. The Government is taking continuous steps to improve the sporting culture and talent pool in the country, especially at community, school and university levels,in respect of international competitive sports.

Accordingly, to infuse sports culture and achieve sporting excellence in the country and to encourage sports all over the country thus allowing the population to harness the power of sports through its cross-cutting influence, namely, holistic development of children & youth, community development, social integration, gender equality, healthy lifestyle, national pride and economic opportunities related to sports development, the Ministry, based on the experience of implementing various sports promotional schemes and stakeholder consultations / feedback, has revamped the Khelo India Scheme being implemented from 2016-17. The revamped Khelo India Scheme came into effect from 14th October 2017. Salient features of the Scheme is given at Annexure – I.

The Khelo India Scheme has specific verticals for development of sports at community, school and University levels. The Scheme also includes a vertical of ‘Talent Identification and Development’ through a Long Term Athlete Development (LTAD) Programme. The relevant provisions of the vertical are given in Annexure – II.

Further, financial assistance to National Sports Federations (NSFs) under the Scheme of Assistance to NSFs for various activities, such as, holding coaching camps for national level sportspersons, national championships for sub-junior, junior and senior categories, organizing international tournaments in India, participation in international tournaments abroad, procurement of sports/sports science equipment and consumables, engagement of foreign coaches/experts to train athletes, etc.

In addition, Sports Authority of India (SAI), an autonomous body under the aegis of Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports, is implementing the following 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 :

- **National Sports Talent Contest Scheme (NSTC)**
- **Army Boys Sports Company (ABSC)**
- **SAI Training Centre (STC)**
- **Special Area Games (SAG)**
- **Extension Centre of STC/SAG**
- **Centre of Excellence (COE)**
- **National Sports Academies (NSA)**

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. *395 FOR 22.03.2018 ASKED BY DR. MANOJ RAJORIA AND ADV. JOICE GEORGE, MPS, REGARDING DEVELOPMENT OF SPORTING CULTURE

Annexure – I

Salient feature of the Khelo India Scheme

Vision

To infuse sports culture and achieve sporting excellence in the country.

Mission

To encourage sports for all thus allowing the population across gender and all age groups to harness the power of sports through its cross-cutting influence, namely, holistic development of children & youth, community development, social integration, gender equality, healthy lifestyle, national pride and economic opportunities related to sports development.

The Khelo India Scheme would include the following components/ objectives:-

- i. Play Field Development
- ii. Community Coaching Development
- iii. State Level Khelo India Centres
- iv. Annual Sports Competitions
- v. Talent Search and Development
- vi. Utilisation and Creation/ Upgradation of Sports Infrastructure
- vii. Support to National/Regional/State Sports Academies
- viii. Physical Fitness of School going Children
- ix. Sports for Women
- x. Promotion of Sports among persons with disabilities
- xi. Sports for Peace and Development
- xii. Promotion of rural and indigenous/tribal games

The various components are briefly explained in succeeding paragraphs.

1. Play Field Development :A National inventory of playfields and sports infrastructure will be prepared on a Geographic Information System (GIS) platform for their optimum utilisation. In order to put in place a strong institutionalized mechanism for preserving, protecting, developing and promoting playfields, State and district playfield Associations will be created in all States/UTs on the lines of National Playfield Association of India (NPFAI). District and State level Associations will register existing play areas, map them on the GIS platform and affiliate with the National Playing Fields Association (NPFAI) through district and State associations, thereby creating a National database. Development of playgrounds in all gram

panchayats can be taken up in convergence with the scheme of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) and any other scheme(s) of the State Government/Central Government. It would also include development of model playfields on pilot basis.

2. Community Coaching Development : A cascading model of Community Coach Development will be adopted for development of community coaches across the country. This will involve skill development and certification system. A short term community coaching development programme will be evolved and identified Physical Education Teachers (PETs) nominated by States/UTs will be trained as master trainers or coach developers. Such Master Trainers will, in turn, train other PETs/Volunteers in their respective States/UTs as community coaches and develop teams at community level. Online courses for community coach development will also be developed at primary and advanced levels.

3. State Level Khelo India Centres : A large number of sports infrastructure set up throughout the country are not being utilised optimally due to lack of coaches/part-time coaches, supports staff such as physiotherapists and masseurs, equipment, proper field of play, consumables, day boarding facilities, etc., as well as lack of adequate financial support for meeting recurring expenditure. Accordingly, it is proposed to support better utilization of sports infrastructure belonging to States/UTs through suitable Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) and provide support for engagement of coaches, providing day-boarding facilities as per the Sports Authority of India (SAI) Scheme.

4. Annual Sports Competitions : Khelo India will be the basic platform to showcase sporting skills and accordingly become a platform for talent spotting at the national level and providing development pathways for gifted and talented children to achieve excellence. The Central Government will organize the following National level competitions, i.e., Khelo India National School Games and Khelo India National University Games, in respect of priority sports disciplines at various places across the country by associating concerned National Sports Federations (NSFs) and School Game Federation of India (SGFI) and University Sports promotion bodies including Association of Indian Universities (AIU).

5. Talent Identification and Development : 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. Identification of sporting talent will involve conduct of pan-India trials of children by Talent Scouts (to be engaged for the purpose), in association with States/UTs.

6. Utilization and Creation of Sports Infrastructure

Majority of the schools, colleges and even Universities lack proper play grounds as well as sporting infrastructure in the country. Efforts will be made to utilize the existing available sports infrastructure through a system of active management committee consisting of players and members of neighborhood community as well all over the country especially those under the control of Central Government/State Governments. A suitable mechanism will be evolved to identify gaps in availability of sporting infrastructure across the country and fill these gaps with support under Khelo India. Scheme of Khelo India will also be converged with Members of Parliament Local Area Development (MPLAD) Scheme. The States may also provide for convergence of Member of Legislative Assembly Local Area Development (MLALAD) Scheme with Khelo India Scheme. This Component will have the following two sub components :

- i. University Centre of Excellence Programme: For setting up centers of sporting excellence in selected Universities.
- ii. Creation of Appropriate Sports Infrastructure: Under this component, grants-in-aid will be provided to States/ UTs, SAI etc. to develop critical sports infrastructure and other infrastructure where there are gaps.

7. Support to National/ Regional/State Sports Academies :The sports talents identified under the Scheme will be given the option to join SAI National Sports Academies, State Sports Academies and Sports Schools or Sports Academies established by private sector. Grants-in-aid will be provided for establishment, operation and maintenance of sports academies in respect of identified disciplines to Sports Authority of India, State Governments or to private sector or sports person under Public Private Partnership (PPP) mode for facilitating and supplementing Long Term Athlete Development (LTAD) programme (for 8 years). At least one academy for Para Athletes will be supported.

8. Physical Fitness :An effort will be made to implement a component of physical fitness across all schools in India under Khelo India. National Physical Fitness parameters will be evolved region- wise and a tool kit will be provided to each school to evaluate physical fitness of all school going children throughout the country, in all States/UTs. A mechanism will be evolved to perform an advisory role for integration of Sports and physical education. Sports will be integrated with School education by making it a compulsory subject for which marks will be awarded. This will be done in conjunction with the Department of School Education & Literacy.

9. Sports for Women :While all the components of the Khelo India Scheme are gender neutral and afford opportunities to women too for participating in sporting activities and development of sports, it is proposed to hold annual national competitions for women. Emphasis will be laid on such sports disciplines where there is less participation of women so that more number of women will participate in such sports disciplines.

10. Sports for Peace &Development : The Government of India, under the Special Package for J&K is providing funds to the tune of Rs.200 crore for enhancement of sports facilities in the State. To ensure optimal utilization of these infrastructure, soft support in terms

of coaches, equipment, consumables, technical support, competition etc. will be provided. Efforts will be made to organize block level competitions in respect of sports disciplines popular in the State of J&K for positive engagement of youth. Similar efforts will also be made in case of other extremism and terrorism affected and other disturbed areas.

11. Promotion of sports among persons with disabilities :Financial assistance will be provided to States/UTs and SAI for creation of specialist sports infrastructure for persons with disabilities. Funds required for making stadia disabled friendly / barrier free will be accessed from Scheme for Implementation of Persons with Disabilities Act (SIPDA) of Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities. The funds provided under this head will be used for classification of players, equipment, training and preparation of teams for Paralympic Games and disciplines and competitions.

12. Promotion of rural and indigenous/tribal games :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.

Financial Implications

Rs.1756 crore is the estimated expenditure to be incurred during the period from 2017-18 to 2019-20.

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Annexure – II

Relevant provisions for ‘Talent Identification and Development’ 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.
