

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 5422
TO BE ANSWERED ON 25.07.2019**

Encouragement to Rural Youth for Sports

**5422. SHRI HANUMAN BENIWAL:
SHRIMATI RAKSHA NIKHIL KHADSE:**

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

- (a) the details of steps taken to encourage the talent of rural youth and attracting them to other sports and the steps and incentives proposed to be taken/ provided to the sportspersons to come into the mainstream, State-wise;**
- (b) the funds allocated during the last two years for providing hostels to the students of rural areas;**
- (c) whether the Government proposes and planning long term preparations to concentrate on the sport talents across the country especially athletes enabling India to win more medals and if so, the details thereof; and**
- (d) whether the Government is trying to find out the bottleneck and shortcomings for lacking in sports activity though having enough and sufficient infrastructure in various sports activities and if so, the details thereof?**

ANSWER

**THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE)
FOR YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS
(SHRI KIREN RIJIJU)**

- (a) 'Sports' being a State subject promotion of sports, including encouraging, identifying and nurturing sporting talent, is primarily the responsibility of State/Union Territory Governments. Central Government supplements their efforts by providing assistance to National Sports Federations (NSFs), expert training at Sports Authority of India (SAI) Centres and support under Khelo India scheme. Scouting and nurturing of talent, including from rural areas, and organization of competitive events under Khelo India scheme help in promotion of sports among rural youth.**

Central Government is supporting 10 Regional Centres, 4 Educational Institutions and 273 Training Centres of SAI. These cater to talented sportspersons, including those from rural areas.

(b) Presently, 14236 talented sportspersons, including 8698 with residential facilities are being benefitted in 27 sports disciplines in various SAI training centres. No sanction has been issued for funds allocated through SAI for construction of hostels in rural areas, as it is the responsibility of State / UT Governments.

(c) While scouting of sporting talent and its nurturing is responsibility of State / UT Governments, Central Government is supporting early identification of sporting talent and its nurturing under Khelo India Scheme. The athletes are being nurtured and trained for excellence in Regional Centres of Sports Authority of India (SAI), Academies established under Khelo India Scheme and assisting National Sports Federations (NSFs) for foreign exposure and participation in international competitions.

(d) Providing sufficient sports infrastructure at various levels being responsibility of State / UT Governments, Central Government is assisting them for bridging gaps in infrastructure and providing high quality sports infrastructure in Regional Centres.
