

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS
(DEPARTMENT OF SPORTS)
LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION No.185
ANSWERED ON 20/12/2022**

FIFA World Cup

***185. SHRI V.K. SREEKANDAN:**

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

(a) whether it is a fact that football is the most loved game all over the world and it is prestigious for any nation to win an event like FIFA World Cup;

(b) whether it is a fact that India never qualified, except in 1950 by default, or participated in FIFA World Cup till now; and

(c) whether the Government is considering to take effective steps for getting India qualified for the next FIFA World Cup and if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER
THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS
(SHRI ANURAG SINGH THAKUR)**

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (c) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. *185 TO BE ANSWERED ON 20/12/2022 REGARDING “FIFA WORLD CUP” ASKED BY SHRI V.K. SREEKANDAN, HON’BLE MEMBER OF LOK SABHA

(a) Yes, Sir. Football is one of the most popular sports in the world.

(b) Yes, Sir. India has never played the final round of a Senior Men’s or Women’s World Cup. However, India was invited for the 1950 FIFA World Cup as there were teams that had withdrawn but Indian Team didn’t participate in the edition.

(c) While the primary responsibility for taking effective steps for Indian Football Team qualifying for FIFA World Cup is that of All India Football Federation (AIFF), the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports supplements the efforts of AIFF by way of providing financial assistance to it under the Scheme of Assistance to National Sports Federations (NSFs) for training and participation of Indian team in international tournaments abroad, holding of national and international tournaments in India, purchase of equipment, training under Indian and foreign coaches with requisite technical & scientific back up, so as to enable the Indian football team to achieve excellence at international level. Football has been placed in the “Priority” category so that it gets maximum assistance under the Scheme of Assistance to the NSFs.
