

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF SCHOOL EDUCATION AND LITERACY**

LOK SABHA

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1299
ANSWERED ON 11th December, 2023**

Promotion of Sports at School Level

1299. SHRI JAYANT SINHA:

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

- (a) the ongoing and planned initiatives taken by the Government in order to promote sports at school level;
- (b) the number of villages that have playgrounds in Hazaribagh and Ramgarh districts in Jharkhand; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to construct playgrounds in the villages in these districts?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
(SMT. ANNPURNA DEVI)**

(a): Government of India has launched Samagra Shiksha - Integrated Scheme for school education, an overarching programme for the school education sector extending from pre-school to class XII and aims to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education at all levels of school education. Realizing the need for holistic development of children, a dedicated component named 'Sports & Physical education' under Samagra Shiksha is being implemented. Under this component annual financial grants to the tune of Rs. 5000 for primary, Rs. 10,000 for secondary & Rs. 25,000 for senior secondary government schools has been allocated to buy sports equipments. In addition, as per new norms of the scheme, an additional grant up to Rs. 25000 per school is provided to schools in case at least 2 students of that school win medal in Khelo India National school games competition.

National Education Policy (NEP), 2020 also lays special emphasis on sports, not just as an extra-curricular activity, but as an integral part of holistic development for every individual. The policy envisages sports as a part of the curriculum and emphasises on sports-integrated learning as well as adopting fitness as a lifelong attitude.

This Department issued Guidelines for Sports Grant under Samagra Shiksha (<https://samagra.education.gov.in/docs/Sports%20Guidelines.pdf>) in December, 2018 and further, this Department revised the same and issued the Guidelines incorporating the recommendation of NEP, 2020 (https://samagra.education.gov.in/docs/revised_samagra_sports.pdf) in August, 2023.

Department of School Education & Literacy in collaboration with All India Football Federation (AIFF) and Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA) has launched the ambitious Football for Schools (F4S) programme of FIFA for school students across the country. The programme aims to significantly broaden the accessibility of football for students, regardless of gender, within the

school setting, while seamlessly integrating football-related activities into the education system in collaboration with various stakeholders. Under this programme, more than 11 lakh FIFA footballs are to be distributed throughout the country in a phased manner. More than 1.50 lakh schools will benefit from this programme. As a part of the programme, to enhance capacity building, recently this department has conducted master training programme at 3 venues viz Sambalpur, Pune and Bengaluru where around 300 physical education teacher/trainees from States/UTs, KVS, NVS and AIFF across India participated with an aim to learn from the best and further use their training and skills as Master Trainers at State level for further capacity building in the field. Further, the kick-off of the distribution of balls was launched on 2nd December, 2023 from JNV Cuttack, Odisha.

With a view to achieving the twin objectives of mass participation and promotion of excellence in sports, the Government of India launched Khelo India Programme for the development of sports in the country in the year 2018 to improve the sports culture. In addition, with a view to make fitness an integral part of daily lives, FIT INDIA Movement was launched by Hon'ble Prime Minister on the occasion of National Sports Day in 2019. To incorporate these schemes in the school curriculum, this Department has circulated the advisories/suggestions/recommendations to the States/UTs/Autonomous Bodies at regular intervals

(b) & (c): Education is in the Concurrent list of the Constitution and majority of the schools are within the purview of respective State Government and UT Administration. As per Unified District Information System for Education Plus (UDISE+) for the year 2021-22, the number of schools in the rural region of Hazaribagh and Ramgarh districts in Jharkhand that have playgrounds are 1051 and 381 respectively.

In order to provide the playground facility and child friendly school environment to the students' provision for development of playground under strengthening of infrastructure in existing schools in Samagra Shiksha has been made. The Ministry of Rural Development issued a notification in March, 2017 which makes a provision for construction of play fields and compound walls for Government run schools in the villages under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee scheme. Further, Khelo India Scheme includes a vertical 'Play Field Development' which provides for putting in place a strong institutionalized mechanism for preserving, protecting, developing and promoting playfields.

The Schedule to Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009 lays down the norms and standards for a school building. A school building has to be an all-weather building comprising, inter alia, playground facility. Further, to address the issue of shortage of playgrounds in schools, this Ministry has issued an advisory to the State and UT Governments that the schools that do not have playgrounds, may make adequate arrangements in adjoining playground, municipal park etc., for children to play outdoor games and other physical activities.
