

**Government of India
Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports
Department of Sports**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3902
TO BE ANSWERD ON 18.03.2021**

Football Talent

3902. SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ:

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

(a) whether in the Indian Premier Football League competitions clubs often hire players from abroad specially from Africa which has surfeit of football talent to be sold abroad;

(b) whether promising football talent abundantly available in the North eastern States is not in much demand as the players from overseas and if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether the Government will come forward to establish soccer academies in each of the North Eastern States specially in Meghalaya, Mizoram and Manipur so that these academies prepare and deliver budding soccer talents to major football league in the mainstream centres?

ANSWER

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

(a) & (b): Promotion of specific sports discipline is the responsibility of the concerned National Sports Federation (NSF). For promotion and development of sport of Football at national level the Government has recognized All India Football Federation (AIFF) as the NSF. As per AIFF, it is a common practice globally where foreign players are drafted in teams. However, recently there has

been huge reduction in appearances in the Indian National Football League (I-League) and Indian Super League (ISL) as per the tournament regulations in hiring the foreign players by the clubs and there are more Indian players in the teams than the foreigners. Mostly the clubs rely on players coming from the north eastern States. The players from north eastern States are part of the leading ISL / I-League clubs and also of National teams / Academies of AIFF.

(c) Under the Khelo India – National Programme for Development of Sports, various initiatives have been undertaken to setup training facilities across India including the north eastern States. Academies are accredited for support under the vertical ‘Support for National/Regional/State Academies’. The following accredited academies having football discipline under the Khelo India Scheme are operational in north eastern States:-

State	Accredited Academies
Assam	National Centre of Excellence, Guwahati
Manipur	National Centre of Excellence, Imphal

Apart from this, the following Khelo India Centres (KICs) are operational in the north eastern States for various disciplines including football:

State	Name of KICs in football discipline
Arunachal Pradesh	(i) Changlang District, Miao, Changlang (ii) Independent Golden Jubilee HS School, Passighat, Siang
Manipur	Th. Birachandra Singh Football Academy, Imphal
Nagaland	Greenwood School, Village Kuda, Nagarjan, Dimapur
Tripura	Tripura Tribal Areas Autonomous District Council, Khumulwng
