* The horses are divided into 5 groups of 5 horses each.
* Group-wise the horses are made to run.(MATCH - 1 to 5)
* The top three horses of each race have to be selected.
* The horses that had arrived at the first place of each match (match - 1 to 5) have to be contested against each other.(MATCH - 6)
* The horse that arrives at the first place of this match (match - 6) is declared **‘fastest’**.
* In the next match the second and third places of MATCH - 6, the second and third places against the ‘fastest’ horse of match –(one of the matches) 1 to 5, and the second place against the second fastest horse (of match 6) during the first set of matches have to be contested against each other.(MATCH - 7)
* The first and second places of the match- 7 is the declared **‘second fastest’** and **‘third fastest’** respectively.

Ans: 7-MATCHES

Explanation:

* The horses are divided into 5 groups: A, B, C, D, E
* After the matches 1 to 5 the horses are named A1, A2, A3 ……; B1, B2, B3 ……; C1, C2 ……D1, D2……E1, E2……etc respectively according to the positions they secured in the race
* All the horses that had arrived at the first place of each match (match - 1 to 5) have to be contested against each other in match 6 i.e. A1, B1, C1, D1, E1 contested against each other in match-6.
* In the next match the second and third places of MATCH - 6, the second and third places against the ‘fastest’ horse of match –(one of the matches) 1 to 5, and the second place against the second fastest horse (of match 6) during the first set of matches have to be contested against each other.(MATCH - 7).

i.e.:

Let us assume that the winners of match-6 are B1, C1 and D1 in the first, second and third positions respectively, then B1 is termed the **‘fastest’**

In match-7:

B2, B3, C1, C2, D1 shall contest against each other. The first position and second position of this race is termed the **‘second fastest’** and the **‘third fastest’** respectively.