

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS & SPORTS
(DEPARTMENT OF SPORTS)

RAJYA SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2397

TO BE ANSWERED ON 09.08.2021

Sports quota

2397 Dr. Narendra Jadhav:

Will the Minister of *Youth Affairs and Sports* be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of total number of jobs provided by Government under sports quota in past two years;
- (b) whether any body has been created by Government to counsel the sportspersons, suffering from anxiety and depressive disorders due to isolation in COVID-19 phase, if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) whether any fund has been created by Government to support young athletes from underprivileged families who are finding it difficult to continue with their sports as well as to earn their livelihoods;
if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER
MINISTER FOR YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS
[SHRI ANURAG SINGH THAKUR]

- (a): Government of India provides reservation upto 5% of direct recruitment vacancies in Group „C“ and erstwhile Group „D“ for meritorious sportspersons as per “Sports Quota Policy”, however, number of jobs provided under sports quota is not centrally maintained.
- (b): Following measures were taken to deal with the impact of Covid-19 on sportspersons as well as officials of the Department: -
 - (i) Tele-counselling cell for students and staff of National Sports University (NSU) during COVID-19 pandemic was created.
 - (ii) Services of psychologists were provisioned under Assistance to National Sports Federations (NSFs) Scheme for campers. Additionally, services of psychologists were also provided to individual athletes as per their requests under Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS).

- (iii) Regular interaction with the athletes was done in order to boost their morale and keep them motivated in these tough times. Seminars and workshops by experts in sports psychology, sports science/medicine, nutrition in Covid-19, strength & conditioning, high performance sports environment, anti-doping have been organized for TOPS athletes via, video conferencing, social media like Facebook Live, Insta Live, etc.
- (iv) Seminars and workshops were conducted in sports psychology, sports science/ medicine, nutrition in Covid-19, strength & conditioning, high performance sports environment, anti-doping.

(c): The National Sports Development Fund (NSDF) was established in 1998. The NSDF supports sportspersons to excel in the field by providing opportunities to train under coaches of international repute with technical scientific and psychological support and also in getting exposure to international competitions. The NSDF also funds the Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS) for providing financial support to selected elite athletes for training, participation in competitions, purchase of equipment, availing of the services of support persons, etc. Besides, „Out of Pocket Allowance (OPA)“ @ ₹50,000/- per month to core group athletes and ₹25000/- per month to developmental group of athletes respectively are given to the selected Athletes for meeting contingent and miscellaneous expenses.

Under the Scheme of Assistance to National Sports Federations (NSFs), Government provides assistance to elite sportspersons preparing for major international events such as Olympic Games, Asian Games, Commonwealth Games, etc. by providing funding support through its Scheme of Assistance to National Sports Federations (NSFs).

Government *inter-alia* supports budding talents under the various verticals of Khelo India Scheme aiming at broad basing of sports and promotion of excellence in sports across the country.

Under the Scheme of Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay National Welfare Fund for Sportspersons, Government provides assistance ranging from ₹2 lakhs to ₹10 lakhs to outstanding sportspersons of the past, living in indigent circumstances, on the various grounds including medical treatment.

Further, Government provides pensions ranging from ₹12000/- to ₹20,000/- to those meritorious Indian sportspersons, who attained the age of 30 years; have retired from active sports career and won medals in specified prestigious international sports events.
