

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

**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2399**  
ANSWERED ON 09.08.2021

**ENCOURAGEMENT TO SPORTS TALENT FROM RURAL AREAS OF  
MAHARASHTRA**

2399 SHRI ANIL DESAI:

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

- (a) whether Government proposes to strengthen the sports eco system for rural sports talent in Maharashtra to fulfill the aim to bring the country in top ten in the coming Olympics and Asian Games;
- (b) if so, the steps taken/to be taken on the said proposal; and
- (c) the details of roadmap and the steps taken/to be taken by Government towards the target of achieving the same?

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

(a) and (b) Talent identification and grooming of identified sportspersons and teams, including those from rural areas of the country as well as Maharashtra, for their participation in international sports events, like Olympics and Asian Games, is done under the Khelo India Scheme and sports promotional schemes of Sports Authority of India (SAI), viz. National Centres of Excellence, SAI Training Centre (STC), Extension Centre of STCs, and National Sports Talent Contest.

(c) Preparation of Indian sportspersons and teams for international events, including Olympics and Asian Games, is a continuous process. Talented sportspersons are provided competitive exposure and training under the Scheme of Assistance to NSFs and Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS). Under TOPS, customized training is provided to the medal probables for international events, including Olympics. Training and competition requirements of various sports including those of Olympics and Asian Games are considered and decided as part of the Annual Calendar of Training and Competitions (ACTC) in consultation with the concerned National Sports Federations and SAI.

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