

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 156
TO BE ANSWERD ON 19.07.2021**

Facilities for athletes and youth amidst the COVID-19

156 Dr. V. Sivadasan:

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

- (a) whether Government has taken steps to ensure the facilities for continuing the training and practice of the athletes taking part in the Tokyo Olympics, amidst the COVID-19 pandemic;
- (b) whether any priority has been given to the sportspersons in vaccination drive, if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) whether there has been any special projects and steps being taken by the Ministry to tackle multiple issues faced by the youth in the country during pandemic, if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

**THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS
[SHRI ANURAG SINGH THAKUR]**

(a) The Government has taken various measures for continuing the training and practice of the athletes taking part in the Tokyo Olympics, amidst the COVID-19 pandemic. The athletes have been supported by providing necessary sporting equipment such as Barbell Rods, weights, Exercise Bicycle, air pellets, target system with the help from Sports Authority of India (SAI) Regional Centers, State Governments and NGOs at their homes for sustaining their training and practice. Further, those Olympic bound athletes who could not go back to their places due to lockdown were given equipment in their rooms for training in SAI Centres. Seminars and workshops by experts in Sports Psychology, sports science, nutrition in COVID-19, strength & conditioning, high performance sports environment, anti-doping have been organized via video conferencing and social media platforms to educate athletes about how to cope with stress and depression during tough times and focusing on their objectives so that the training is not hampered. Athletes have also been provided with necessary sporting equipment to enable them to keep fit.

(b) The Government has made available special dispensation to the sportspersons and accompanying staff of Indian contingent to participating in Tokyo Olympics 2020 for administration of second dose of Covishield vaccine in relaxation of 12 week gap. The

Vaccination Drive was initiated in the month of April 2021 at Sports Authority of India centres with the help of local authorities.

(c) Fit India Dialogue Sessions were organized by the Ministry as fitness has become even more important aspect of life in times of Covid. Besides, the Ministry has taken a number of initiatives for youth during Covid-19 pandemic by engaging them in activities in combating the pandemic. The Ministry through Nehru Yova Kendra Sangathan (NYKS) and National Service Scheme (NSS) has imparted soft-skills including capacity building measures for awareness creation, sensitization, training and imparting of knowledge and information for youth volunteers and youth leaders which enabled them to act as first responders and play their role efficiently in combating the pandemic. Youth volunteers motivated and encouraged people to make face masks at home, downloading of Aarogya Setu App and preparing and educating people about maintaining social distancing at public places, handwash, hygiene, personal cleanliness, assisting district administration in maintaining control rooms and facilitating relief operations to provide relief and support to needy, underprivileged, migrant labourers and other vulnerable groups
