

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

RAJYA SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 796

TO BE ANSWERED ON 26.07.2021

Employment and support to sportspersons

796. SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA:

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

- (a) the measures taken by the Ministry to provide employment to retired youth players; and
- (b) mechanism by which the Ministry ensures provision of diet and equipment to young sportspersons who are not availing training during COVID-19 pandemic?

ANSWER

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

(a): The Government of India provides reservation of upto 5% of direct recruit vacancies in Group 'C' and erstwhile Group 'D' for meritorious sportspersons as per "Sports Quota Policy" framed and regulated by Department of Personnel & Training (DoP&T) in consultation with all concerned stakeholders including Department of Sports.

Besides, Sports Authority of India (SAI), an autonomous organization under Department of Sports, also provides opportunity to Olympians and Paralympians to join in SAI as coaches. Out of total sanctioned posts of coaches, SAI reserves 5% posts for Olympians and 1% posts for Paralympians at the entry level cadre while 3% posts for Medal Winning Olympians or Olympians, who represented the country in two Olympic Games and 2% posts for medal winning Paralympians in the level -10 grade of Coaches.

Further, under the "State Level Khelo India Centre" vertical of the Khelo India Scheme, as a part of Government's vision to strengthen the sports ecosystem in the country at the grassroots level, a low-cost, effective sports training mechanism has been developed where-in Schools (as organizations) can appoint past "Champion Athletes" who would become coaches and mentors for youngsters.

(b): In view of the COVID-19 pandemic, *inter-alia*, the following measures were taken to ensure smooth training for the sportspersons including those who have qualified for Olympic Games-2021 to be held in Tokyo, Japan so that their performance will not be affected:

- (i) Diet as per requirement has been introduced. Kitchen upgradation and hiring of expert Chefs, Nutritionists were also under taken.
- (ii) The athletes were provided with necessary sporting equipment with the help from Sports Authority of India (SAI) Regional Centres, State Governments and NGOs at their homes during the first phase of nationwide lockdown.
- (iii) All players in Target Olympic Podium (TOP) Scheme or Khelo India Scheme continued to receive support eligible to them under the Schemes including monthly Out of Pocket Allowance (OPA) of ₹50,000 and ₹10,000 respectively.
- (iv) Education workshops for the athletes were conducted in order to boost their morale and keep them motivated in 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, Instagram Live, etc.

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