

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS & SPORTS  
(DEPARTMENT OF SPORTS)  
**RAJYA SABHA**  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1589  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 02.08.2021

**Training of athletes for Olympics 2024**

1589 Shri Sanjay Seth:  
Shri K.C. Venugopal:

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

(a) whether Government has taken steps to train athletes for the upcoming Olympics of 2024 (Paris) and 2028 (Los Angeles) and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether measures are undertaken to provide financial and infrastructural support to Indian athletes who will compete in the upcoming Olympics of 2024 and 2028 and if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government will carry out review of the performance of the selected junior athletes under Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS) and if so, the details and outcome thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(a) & (b): Yes, Sir. Preparation for Olympic Games is an ongoing process for which the Government has taken several steps to train athletes for the upcoming Olympics of 2024 (Paris) and 2028 (Los Angeles) as under:

- I. **Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS):** In order to improve India's performance at Olympics and Paralympics, the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports started the Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS) in September 2014. This was revamped in April 2018 to have a technical support team for managing the TOPS athletes and providing holistic support. The scheme is fully functional and has been extending all requisite support to probable athletes identified for the Paris-2024 and Los Angeles-2028 Olympic Games and Paralympic Games including foreign training, international competition, equipment and coaching camp. Out of pocket allowance (OPA) is paid to TOPS athletes selected in Core Group at the rate of Rs.50,000 per month and to Development Group at the rate of Rs.25,000 per month. At present, 162 athletes and 01 Hockey Men's & 01 Hockey Women's teams are included in the TOPS Core Group and 254 athletes are included in the TOPS Development Group.
- II. **High Priority Category** of sports discipline has been identified to put focus on and incentivize those sports disciplines played in the Olympics in which India has won

medals in the last conducted Asian Games as well as Commonwealth Games or in which India has good chance of winning medals in the upcoming Olympics of 2024 (Paris) and 2028 (Los Angeles). Presently, nine sports disciplines viz., (i) Athletics, (ii) Badminton, (iii) Hockey, (iv) Shooting, (v) Tennis, (vi) Weightlifting, (vii) Wrestling, (viii) Archery and (ix) Boxing have been categorised as High Priority.

- III. **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)”, also known as ACTC (Annual Calendar for Training and Competition). As part of Scheme of Assistance to NSFs, they are provided funding for organizing training camps which includes training, accommodation and dietary costs as well.
- IV. **National Centre of Excellence (NCOE):** 23 SAI Centres have been designated NCOE across the country to impart specialized training to promising athletes in 14 priority disciplines and 10 additional disciplines. Funding for the above are allocated under Khelo India Scheme.
- V. **Khelo India:** Khelo India Scheme continues to support approximately 3000 young athletes towards broad basing support for Indian sports. The mission is to encourage sports all over the country, thus allowing the population to harness the power of sports through its cross-cutting influence, namely, holistic development of children & youth, community development, social integration, gender equality, healthy lifestyle, national pride and economic opportunities related to sports development. The identified athletes are provided a support of Rs.6.28 lakhs per annum which includes Rs.10,000/- per month per athlete as Out of Pocket Allowance in addition to the training support. A wide network of Khelo India accredited academies, along with revamped and improved training centres of SAI in the most remote areas of the country have ensured that talent has access to training and sports infrastructure, where the athlete needs it. 232 (Non-SAI & SAI) Academies has been accredited for training of Khelo India Academies (KIAs) in 21 sports disciplines.
- Further, under the vertical “Utilization and Creation/Upgradation of Sports Infrastructure” of Khelo India Scheme, infrastructure projects are created for the benefit of athletes across the country.

(c): Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS), which covers the junior and sub-junior athletes also, is a dynamic exercise, wherein review of performance is done periodically fixing targets and intermediate milestones for individual athletes; and the sportspersons who fail to achieve the targets despite providing additional support and adequate time are dropped from the scheme.

Further, on the basis on key performance indicators brought out by the Sports Authority of India (SAI) in collaboration with the National Sports Federations (NSFs), coaches and other stakeholders, a periodic performance review is conducted for all athletes under the Scheme.

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