

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS
(DEPARTMENT OF SPORTS)
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-1436
ANSWERED ON 28/07/2022

ADDRESSING MENTAL HEALTH IN SPORTS

1436 SHRI BINOY VISWAM

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

- (a) whether Government has taken note of the immense mental health impact of professional sports on athletes, if so, steps taken to address the same;
- (b) the number of mental health professionals currently employed across all sport federations in the country, the details of each sport;
- (c) the budget allocated for mental health well-being of sports persons, the details thereof;
- (d) the number of professional athletes that have withdrawn from competitions due to mental health issues during the last 3 years; and
- (e) whether Government has made any attempts to engage with athletes on the same, the details thereof?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS & SPORTS

(SHRI ANURAG SINGH THAKUR)

- (a) to (e) The Government has taken note of the mental health impact of professional sports on athletes. In this regard, mental health professionals such as Psychologists are engaged with the Indian players during National Coaching camps, International exposures/competitions etc. At present, 07 Sports Psychologists have been appointed on regular/contract basis and are deputed in National Centres of Excellence (NCOEs) of Sports Authority of India for the counseling of athletes on regular intervals.

Norms of assistance under the scheme of Assistance to National Sports Federations (NSFs) issued by the Ministry vide letter dated 28.02.2022 provide for engagement of support personnel including sports science experts, sports Doctors, Psychologists etc by National Sports Federations at remuneration of upto Rs. 2 lakh per month for sports medicine Doctors/others Doctors and upto Rs. 1 lakh per month for Sports Psychologists. Funding on engagement of support personnel including sports medicine Doctors and Psychologists is provided under the scheme of Assistance to NSFs which has a budgetary allocation of Rs. 280 crores for current Financial Year 2022-23.

The details of mental health professionals currently employed by NSFs in the Country are as under:

Discipline	No of mental health professionals
Boxing	3
Shooting	5

As per available information, there have been no cases of withdrawal of athletes due to mental health issues during the last 3 years.
