GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS & SPORTS
DEPARTMENT OF SPORTS
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-639
ANSWERED ON- 07/12/2023

PROMOTING WOMEN SPORTSPERSONS

639. SHRI HARBHAJAN SINGH:

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

(a) whether Government is aware that more and more women sportspersons are bringing laurels for the country, especially during the last few years;

(b) if so, whether there is any proposal for promoting women in sports;

(c) if so, the details thereof, sports-wise; and

(d) the details regarding budgetary allocation and actual expenditure on women sports during the last three financial years, year-wise?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS
(SHRI ANURAG SINGH THAKUR)

(a) to (d):Yes, Sir. The Government is aware that more and more women sportspersons are bringing laurels for the country, especially during the last few years. Sports being a State subject, the responsibility of development of sports, including promotion of women athletes in the country, rests primarily with the State/Union Territory governments, and the Central government only supplements their efforts. However, this Ministry is running various sports promotional schemes across the country which are gender neutral and promotes equal participation for both men and women sportspersons. These schemes include: (i) Khelo India Scheme; (ii) Assistance to National Sports Federations (NSFs); (iii) Special Awards to winners in International sports events and their coaches; (iv) National Sports Awards, Pension to Meritorious Sportspersons; (v) National Sports Development Fund; (vi) Sports Training centres run through Sports Authority of India (SAI). Details of these schemes are available in the public domain on the website of the Ministry.

Further, a total of 8639 athletes, including 3375 women, are being trained in 34 sports disciplines like athletics, hockey, volleyball, kabaddi etc under sports promotional schemes of SAI. The selected athletes are provided support in the form of expert coaches including women coaches, sports equipment, boarding and lodging etc.

Under the Khelo India scheme, there is a dedicated sub-component of "Sports for women" wherein emphasis is laid on such sports disciplines where there is less participation of women. Under this component, Khelo India Women's leagues are being organized. Till date, various Sports competitions have been organized in different sports disciplines with total participation of 28,819 women athletes. Under this scheme, Rs. 13.60 crores was sanctioned in Financial Year (FY) 2023-24.

In addition, under the Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS) of this Ministry, support is provided to promising sportspersons irrespective of gender, in terms of modern sports sciences, foreign exposure under experts of respective sports disciplines and participation in international events / competitions recognized by the Indian Olympic Committee (IOC). Currently, a total of 104 elite women athletes in various sports disciplines are covered under it. Out-of-pocket allowance of Rs. 7.02 crores and other support worth Rs. 8.14 crores have been given to TOPS women athletes till date.

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