

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS & SPORTS  
DEPARTMENT OF SPORTS  
**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-798**  
ANSWERED ON- 08/02/2024

**Efforts for making sports more gender inclusive**

798. SHRI HARBHAJAN SINGH:

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

- (a) whether Government has taken any step in the direction of making sports more gender inclusive by promoting more and more women in sports;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the budgetary provisions for the same during the current and the next financial year?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS

(SHRI ANURAG SINGH THAKUR)

(a) to (c) : 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 equally cater to both men and women sportspersons. These schemes include: (i) Khelo India- National Programme for Development of Sports; (ii) Assistance to National Sports Federations (NSFs); (iii) Special Awards to Winners in International Sports Events and their Coaches; (iv) National Sports Awards; (v) Pension to Meritorious Sportspersons; (vi) Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay National Sports Welfare Scheme; (vii) National Sports Development Fund; and (viii) Running Sports Training Centres through Sports Authority of India (SAI). Details of these schemes are available in the public domain on the website of the Ministry.

Further, 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 initiative, various Khelo India Women’s League – are being conducted. Till now, women leagues have been organised in 19 sports disciplines across the country. 479

competitions have been organized for Women athletes with 52,086 participants. A portal named ASMITA (Achieving Sports Milestone by Inspiring Women through Action) was also launched for Women's League on 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2023. Further, the ASMITA logo has also been integrated with Khelo India Women's League with the tagline "Khel se hi pehchan", thereby giving identity to women athletes through sports. Under this sub-component, an amount of Rs. 20.00 Cr each has been allocated during the current and the next financial year.

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