

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS
(DEPARTMENT OF SPORTS)
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO – 468
ANSWERED ON – 28/11/2024

EXCLUSION OF CERTAIN SPORTS FROM 2026 COMMONWEALTH GAMES

468. SHRI RAVI CHANDRA Vaddiraju:

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

- (a) whether Government has raised concerns with the Commonwealth Games Federation regarding the exclusion of sports like hockey, wrestling, and badminton from the 2026 Commonwealth Games, particularly in the context of Telangana athletes who excel in these sports;
- (b) if so, the details of the response received; and
- (c) the steps being taken to mitigate the impact of this exclusion on India's medal tally, including any support or programs for Telangana athletes who might be affected by these changes?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS
(DR. MANSUKH MANDAVIYA)

(a) to (c) The Commonwealth Games Federation (CGF) is the organization responsible for the direction and control of the Commonwealth Games, the Commonwealth Sport movement and other related events. Earlier, the 2026 Commonwealth Games were to be hosted by Victoria, Australia but the host withdrew from the Games due to various reasons, primarily due to paucity of funds. Thereafter, the CGF found Glasgow, Scotland as the replacement host for the 2026 Commonwealth Games. This has led to a much reduced budget, time frame and a reduced sports programme as compared to the previous games. For these Games, only 10 sports, namely, Swimming and Para Swimming, Artistic Gymnastics, Cycling Track and Para Cycling Track, Netball, Weightlifting and Para Powerlifting, Boxing, Judo, Bowls and Para Bowls, 3x3 Basketball and 3x3 Wheelchair Basketball have been selected. The selection was based on the four available venues within close proximity, the available budget and careful management of the total athlete numbers (maximum 3000).

The Government wrote to the CGF President over the exclusion of 9 major sports such as Badminton, Cricket, Hockey, Shooting, Squash, Table Tennis, and Wrestling. The CGF President has replied, inter alia, that having only 10 sports disciplines is a temporary position

to secure the 2026 Games, and that exclusion of any sport does not set a precedent for inclusion in the future Games.

The Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports supports the Indian sportspersons/ teams through various schemes, such as Scheme of Assistance to National Sports Federations and Target Olympic Podium Scheme. The Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports, the National Sports Federations (NSFs), including the Indian Olympic Association (IOA), and the Sports Authority of India (SAI) are working in close coordination for providing best facilities, training, equipment support as also a wholesome nutritious diet required for preparation of the teams and sportspersons, including those belonging to Telangana State for the forthcoming international sports events such as international championships of respective sports, Asian Games, Commonwealth Games, Olympics.
