

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS  
(DEPARTMENT OF SPORTS)  
**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION No-1752**  
ANSWERED ON- 13/03/2025

**PARTICIPATION OF ATHLETES IN OLYMPICS**

1752 # SHRI SANDEEP KUMAR PATHAK:

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

- (a) whether India sends a very small number of athletes to the Olympic Games compared to other developed countries like US which sent about 600 athletes during the last Olympics while only about 110 athletes went from India despite being the most populous country in the world;
- (b) the plan of Government to increase the number and participation of athletes in various sports including the upcoming Olympics and the provision for the allocation of funds for it sports-wise details thereof; and
- (c) the details of the funds allocated to the sports during the year 2024-25 and 2025-26?

**ANSWER**

THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS

(DR. MANSUKH MANDAVIYA)

(a) & (b) For participation in Olympics, qualification criteria/standards are fixed by the concerned International Federation of the respective sports disciplines and the participation in Olympics is dependent upon the sportspersons qualifying in the Olympic Qualifiers and meeting the criteria fixed by international federation.

Preparation for international events including Olympic qualifier events for the Olympic Games, is an ongoing and continuous process. 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 for the forthcoming international sports events, including Olympics.

Further, the selection for customized training of the elite athletes who are medal prospects for mega sports events is done through the Ministry's Mission Olympic Cell (MOC). A performance review is also held at regular intervals under this mechanism.

The Plans/Proposals of the National Sports Federations (NSFs) relating to training, competitive exposure, Coaches and support personnel including foreign coaches, for preparing sportspersons/teams for the international events including mega-sports events such as Olympics, Asian Games etc. are deliberated and finalized in the Annual Calendar for Training and Competition (ACTC) meetings. Funds of ₹ 340 crore (Revised Estimate) in 2024-25 and ₹ 400 crore (Budget Estimate) in 2025-26, have been allocated for the Scheme of Assistance to National Sports Federations (NSFs).

(c) Funds of ₹ 2332.50 crore (Revised Estimate) and ₹ 2520.53 crore (Budget Estimate) have been allocated in 2024-25 and 2025-26 respectively to the Department of Sports for implementation of various sports promotional schemes.

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