

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS & SPORTS
(DEPARTMENT OF SPORTS)
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO- 1111
ANSWERED ON- 13/02/2025

**EQUITABLE AND SUSTAINABLE FUNDING FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF SPORTS
INFRASTRUCTURE**

1111 SHRI KARTIKEYA SHARMA:

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

- (a) the details of comprehensive strategy being implemented by the Ministry to ensure equitable and sustainable funding for the development of sports infrastructure, athlete training and grassroots-level participation across disciplines;
- (b) whether the Ministry is leveraging innovative financial instruments, such as sports impact bonds, public-private partnership models and crowd-funding platforms, if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) whether any steps are being taken to establish an athlete-centric funding framework that provides sustained financial support for professional athletes, including dedicated stipends and performance-linked incentives, if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS & SPORTS

(DR. MANSUKH MANDAVIYA)

(a) Sports being a State subject, the responsibility for the development of sports, including equitable and sustainable funding for the development of sports infrastructure, athlete training and grassroots-level participation across disciplines, rests primarily with the State/UT Governments. The Union Government supplements their efforts by filling the critical gaps through its limited resources.

The Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports implements the following sports development schemes for the development of sports infrastructure, athlete training and grassroots-level participation across disciplines in the country:-

(i) Scheme of “Khelo India- National Programme for Development of Sports”; (ii) Assistance to National Sports Federations; (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) Sports Training Centres through Sports Authority of India.

Additionally, Sports Authority of India (SAI), an autonomous body under the aegis of this Ministry, implements the following Sports Promotional Schemes across the country:-

- National Centres of Excellence (NCOE)
- SAI Training Centre (STC)
- Extension Centre of STC

- National Sports Talent Contest (NSTC) (its Sub-Schemes- IGMA & Akharas)

The selected athletes coming from different socio-economic backgrounds are provided financial support in the form of expert coaches, sports equipment, boarding and lodging, sports kit, competition exposure, educational expenses, medical/ insurance and stipend as per the approved scheme norms. The SAI Training Centres (STCs), Extension Centre of STC, National Sports Talent Contest (NSTC) Schemes cater to the developmental grass root athletes who over time are trained and then progress to the NCOEs which is the elite level Training Centre.

Further, through Khelo India Talent Development under the Khelo India Scheme KIAs (Khelo India Athletes) are identified across 21 Sports including para-Athletics, in various age groups and nurtured to excel at national and international levels.

In addition to above, the schemes implemented by this Ministry are demand-driven schemes. The proposals received from the State/UT Governments and other eligible entities are considered for financial assistance, subject to their completeness, technical feasibility and availability of funds under these schemes.

Details of the above schemes are available in the public domain on the websites of this Ministry and the Sports Authority of India.

(b) No, Sir. The Ministry is not leveraging innovative financial instruments, such as sports impact bonds, public-private partnership models and crowd-funding platforms.

(c) Yes, Sir. Under the Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS), the Government provides assistance to India's top athletes for their preparations for Olympic and Paralympic Games. Selected athletes are supported with funding from National Sports Development Fund (NSDF) for customized training and other support not available under normal schemes of the Ministry. Out of Pocket Allowance (OPA) is paid @ Rs. 50,000/- per month to Core group athletes. Apart from OPA, entire expenditure for the training plan submitted by the sportsperson, which is considered and approved by Mission Olympic Cell (MOC), is met under TOPS. TOPS Development Group athletes are receiving OPA of Rs. 25,000/-. Apart from above, the athletes selected under Sports Promotional Schemes of SAI from different socio-economic backgrounds are provided financial support in the form of expert coaches, sports equipment, boarding and lodging, sports kit, competition exposure, educational expenses, medical insurance and stipend as per the approved scheme norms.
