

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS & SPORTS
(DEPARTMENT OF SPORTS)
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 319 #
ANSWERED ON- 03/02/2022

GUIDELINES FOR TALENT SEARCH PROGRAMMES IN SPORTS

319 # SHRI VINAY DINU TENDULKAR

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

- (a) whether any guidelines or any talent search programme has been prepared for participation of sports talent from rural areas in National and International sports tournaments;
- (b) whether any procedure or guidelines is to be followed by talented sports persons in order to receive facilities and guidance pertaining to rules of National/International games and communication channels for its training purpose; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS & SPORTS

(SHRI ANURAG SINGH THAKUR)

(a) and (b) Under the 'Talent Search and Development' vertical of the Khelo India Scheme, Operational Guidelines have been issued whereby criteria and methodology have been laid down for the purposes of identification of talented sportspersons and their development for achieving excellence at the national as well as international levels. Under the Khelo India Scheme, talent search is initiated at the grassroots level in two categories:-

- Sports potential talent identification
- Proven talent identification

Further, India is divided into 05 Zones, namely, North, East, West, South and North-East Zones to carry out talent identification. Grassroot Zonal Talent Identification Committees are formed to reach out to each and every corner of the country to shortlist the potential and proven athletes. Talent Identification is carried out in 20 sports disciplines in the age group of 8 to 14 years, wherein the country has the potential /advantage to excel at the international level.

The talented athletes are selected from various avenues like, Khelo India Games, National Championships conducted by the respective National Sports Federations, etc. Further, the athletes shortlisted by the Talent Screening Committee members from various competitions are called for an assessment camp wherein the Talent Identification and Development Committee members finally select the talented players, who are then subjected to Age Verification Test. The athletes who clear the Age Verification Test are finally inducted into the Khelo India Scheme with approval of the High-Powered Committee and are designated as Khelo India Athletes. The aforesaid Guidelines also include providing financial support and training to the Khelo India Athletes at the accredited sports academies under the "Support to National/Regional/State Sports Academies" vertical of the Khelo India Scheme. The Khelo India Scheme covers all regions of the country, including rural areas.

(c) Does not arise.
