

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS  
(DEPARTMENT OF SPORTS)  
**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION No.1918**  
ANSWERED ON 22/12/2022

**SCHEMES FOR WOMEN AND PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES**

1918 SHRI N.R. ELANGO:

Will the Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government concurs with the view that to build on the successes of the Paralympics, it is important to provide more opportunities and an enabling environment for greater participation of women and persons with disabilities in sport;

(b) if so, the steps taken/being taken by Government in this direction; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS

(SHRI ANURAG SINGH THAKUR)

(a) to (c): All schemes of the Department of Sports are gender-neutral and cater equally to all sportspersons. However, one of the components of the Khelo India Scheme, i.e. “Sports for Women”, is specifically dedicated to promotion of sports among Women. Under this component, Women’s Leagues in various disciplines are conducted in collaboration with the National Sports Federations, in order to increase the participation of women in sports, and to utilize the League as a platform for Talent Identification and also to provide competition exposure to women athletes of the different age groups.

The para-athletes including women para-athletes, are provided all requisite facilities at par with other sportspersons, besides their special needs. Indian para- athletes are being supported under various Schemes of this Ministry and Sports Authority of India (SAI). The identified promising sportspersons/teams, including para athletes, are provided all requisite facilities for their preparations, including a wholesome nutritious diet, equipment, state-of-the-art infrastructure, lodging, travelling facilities, services of reputed Indian and Foreign Coaches/supporting staff, scientific & medical support, sports kit, etc., besides financial assistance for their training abroad and participation in international competitions in India and abroad. Para sports have been placed in the “Priority” category for financial assistance by the Government, and all the requisite assistance is provided for training and competitive exposure of the para athletes, as per the norms laid down for this purpose. The Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports has revised the norms on 28.2.2022 under the Scheme of Assistance

to NSFs and increased the scale of assistance substantially. Under the Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS), talented athletes, including women athletes and para athletes, are selected and provided financial assistance like Out of Pocket Allowance (OPA), equipment support, coaches etc.

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