

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS & SPORTS
(DEPARTMENT OF SPORTS)
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-1759
ANSWERD ON-03/08/2023

PROGRAMME TO ENCOURAGE SPORTPERSONS

1759 # SMT. GEETA ALIAS CHANDRAPRABHA:

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

- (a) whether any special programme is being run to encourage the sportspersons of the country to win medals in Olympics and other international sports competitions;
- (b) if so, the facilities being provided to the medal winning sportspersons under this programme;
- (c) whether financial support is provided to the sportspersons; and
- (d) if so, the number of sportspersons currently availing the financial assistance in the country, the details thereof?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS

(SHRI ANURAG SINGH THAKUR)

(a) to (d): Preparations for improving the performance of the sportspersons and teams of the country in international sports events is an ongoing exercise. The Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports through Sports Authority of India (SAI) have undertaken several initiatives for preparation and training of Indian teams and sportspersons for Olympic Games and other international sports events and to increase the participation of the sportspersons in these events.

The Ministry implements various schemes for the development of sports and for providing benefits/facilities to the sportspersons of the country, viz.:

(i) Khelo India Scheme; (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 Fund; (vii) National Sports Development Fund (NSDF); and (viii) Running Sports Training Centres through Sports Authority of India.

The details of the above schemes are available in the public domain on the website of this Ministry and the Sports Authority of India (SAI) (www.yas.nic.in/sports; www.sportsauthorityofindia.nic.in).

Further, for improving India's performance at Olympics and Paralympics, the Ministry is also implementing the Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS) since 2014. Under the TOPS, the Government extends all requisite support to probable athletes identified for the major international events, including foreign training, international competition, equipment, services of support staff/personnel like Physical Trainer, Sports Psychologist, Mental Trainer and Physiotherapist besides out of pocket allowance of Rs.50,000/- per month to the Core Group athletes and Rs.25,000/- per month to the Development Group athletes.

At present, 103 individual athletes and 2 hockey teams (Men & Women) as part of the core group have been selected under the scheme. Under the Development Group, to ensure a focused approach in India's Olympic preparations, the talent identification of 166 best sporting talents has been completed. The TOPS Development Group athletes are receiving OPA of Rs.25,000/- and customized training support at National Centres of Excellence (NCOEs) operated by SAI.
