

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS & SPORTS
DEPARTMENT OF SPORTS
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-957
ANSWERED ON- 27/07/2023

UNDER-REPRESENTATION OF WOMEN IN SPORTS

957. SHRI SUJEET KUMAR:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that as per the breaking barriers for women in sports pilot survey 2022, only 44 per cent of the athletes were women as compared to 70 per cent in China;
- (b) if so, whether the Ministry has investigated the causes for the under-representation of women in sports at the international level;
- (c) whether the Ministry has taken steps to ensure access to sport facilities, availability of female coaches, existence of sports infrastructure and equipment to women athletes; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS

(SHRI ANURAG SINGH THAKUR)

(a) to (d): Sports being a State subject, the responsibility of development of sports, including promotion of women athletes in the country rests primarily with the State/Union Territory governments. Central government only supplements their efforts. However, this Ministry is running various sports promotional schemes across the country which are gender neutral and promotes equal participation for both male and female sportspersons. These schemes include: (i) Khelo India Scheme; (ii) Assistance to National Sports Federations (NSFs); (iii) Special Awards to winners in International sports events and their coaches; (iv) National Sports Awards, Pension to Meritorious Sportspersons; (v) National Sports Development Fund; (vi) Sports Training centres run through Sports Authority of India (SAI). Details of these schemes are available in the public domain on the website of the Ministry.

Further, a total of 7780 athletes, including 3092 women, are being trained under sports promotional schemes of SAI. The selected athletes are provided support in the form of expert coaches including female coaches, sports equipment, boarding and lodging etc.

Under the Khelo India scheme, there is a dedicated sub-component of “Sports for women” wherein emphasis is laid on such sports disciplines where there is less participation of women. Under this component, Khelo India Women’s leagues are being organized. Till date, 51 Sports competitions have been organized in 14 sports disciplines with total participation of 23,963 women athletes.

In addition, under the Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS) of this Ministry, support is provided to promising sportspersons irrespective of gender, in terms of modern sports sciences, foreign exposure under experts of respective sports disciplines and participation in international events / competitions recognized by the Indian Olympic Committee (IOC). Currently, a total of 85 elite women athletes in various sports disciplines are covered under it.
