

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS  
(DEPARTMENT OF SPORTS)

**RAJYA SABHA**  
**STARRED QUESTION NO. 121**  
**ANSWERED ON 14.12.2023**

**Promotion of women in sports**

\* 121. **Shri Rajeev Shukla:**

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

- (a) whether Government is taking measures to specifically promote women in sports in the country;
- (b) if so, the details of such measures;
- (c) the outcome thereof along with the total number of women engaged in sports, State/UT wise and sports-wise; and
- (d) the measures proposed to be taken in this respect to engage more women in sports in the country?

**ANSWER**

**MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS**  
**(SHRI ANURAG SINGH THAKUR)**

(a) to (d): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

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**Statement referred to in reply to parts (a) to (d) of Rajya Sabha Starred Question no. 121 for reply on 14.12.2023 regarding promotion of women in sports asked by Shri Rajeev Shukla.**

(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, and the Central government only supplements their efforts. However, this Ministry is running various sports promotional schemes across the country which are gender neutral and promote equal participation for both men and women sportspersons. These schemes include: (i) Khelo India- National Programme for Development of Sports; (ii) Assistance to National Sports Federations (NSFs); (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) Running Sports Training Centres through Sports Authority of India (SAI). Details of these schemes are available in the public domain on the website of the Ministry.

A total of 8639 athletes, including 3375 women, are being trained in 34 sports disciplines under various sports promotional schemes of SAI. The selected athletes are provided support in the form of expert coaches including women coaches, sports equipment, boarding and lodging etc. The details of women athletes under sports promotional scheme discipline wise and state wise are given at Annexure-I and II.

Further, 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 initiative, various Khelo India Women’s League – are being conducted. Till now, women leagues have been organised in 19 sports disciplines across the country. 479 competitions have been organized for Women athletes with 52,086 participants. This initiative has significantly increased women participation in sports across the nation and has provided ample opportunities to women athletes to compete, learn and grow in all age groups. A portal named ASMITA (Achieving Sports Milestone by Inspiring Women through Action) was also launched for Women’s League on 22 August 2023. Further, the ASMITA logo has also been integrated with Khelo India Women’s League with the tagline “Khel se hi pehchan”, thereby giving identity to women athletes through sports. Also, the talented athletes under the Khelo India scheme are selected / identified based on the performance during the Khelo India Games, National Championship, Open Selection Trial conducted by the concerned National Sports Federations and School Games Federation of India. As of now, a total of 1341 women athletes have been identified under the Khelo India scheme in various sports disciplines.

As a special initiative for encouraging women in sports, the Khelo India “Dus ka Dum” Sports competition was also launched on the occasion of International Women’s Day

in March 2023. Over 1500 events were conducted with participation of more than one lakh women athletes in various parts of the country.

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). Out-of-pocket allowance of @ Rs.25,000/- per month is given for athletes under TOPS Developmental Group and @ Rs.50,000/- per month for athletes under TOPS Core Group. Currently, a total of 104 elite women athletes in various sports disciplines are covered under TOPS.

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ANNEXURE-I REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a) to (d) OF RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 121 TO BE ANSWERED ON 14/12/2023 REGARDING PROMOTION OF WOMEN IN SPORTS BY SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA.

Discipline-wise Women Athletes under Sports Promotional Schemes

<b>S.No.</b>	<b>Discipline(s)</b>	<b>Women</b>
1	Archery	174
2	Athletics	333
3	Badminton	28
4	Basketball	65
5	Boxing	384
6	Cycling	83
7	Fencing	89
8	Football	112
9	Gymnastics	91
10	Handball	57
11	Hockey	595
12	Judo	156
13	Kabaddi	111
14	Karate	33
15	Kayaking & Canoeing	75
16	Kho-Kho	18
17	Powerlifting	5
18	Rowing	76
19	Sepaktakraw	23
20	Shooting	52
21	Softball	10
22	Swimming	24
23	Table Tennis	67
24	Taekwondo	95
25	Volleyball	117
26	Weightlifting	148
27	Wrestling	235
28	Wushu	60
29	Gatka	4
30	Kalaripayattu	2
31	Khomlainai	10
32	Thang-Ta	19
33	Mukna	0
34	Silambam	24
	<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>3375</b>

ANNEXURE-II REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a) to (d) OF RAJYA SABHA  
STARRED QUESTION NO. 121 TO BE ANSWERED ON 14/12/2023 REGARDING  
PROMOTION OF WOMEN IN SPORTS BY SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA.

State-wise Women Athletes under Sports Promotional Schemes

SN	State	Girls
1	Andhra Pradesh	76
2	Arunachal Pradesh	46
3	Assam	351
4	Bihar	1
5	Chhattisgarh	73
6	Goa	30
7	Gujarat	102
8	Himachal Pradesh	107
9	Haryana	282
10	Jharkhand	77
11	Kerala	254
12	Karnataka	131
13	Maharashtra	185
14	Meghalaya	61
15	Mizoram	73
16	Manipur	218
17	Madhya Pradesh	224
18	Nagaland	0
19	Odisha	94
20	Punjab	200
21	Rajasthan	47
22	Sikkim	18
23	Tamil Nadu	59
24	Telangana	72
25	Tripura	3
26	Uttar Pradesh	5
27	Uttarakhand	155
28	West Bengal	159
29	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	11
30	Chandigarh	0
31	Delhi	175
32	Jammu & Kashmir	23
33	Ladakh	25
34	Lakshadweep	38
35	Puducherry	0
	<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>3375</b>