

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

**RAJYA SABHA STARRED
QUESTION NO. 126
ANSWERED ON 14.12.2023**

Khelo India Programme

***126. Shri Dhananjay Bhimrao Mahadik:**

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

- (a) whether Government has been able to tap the hidden talents in the rural areas of the country through Khelo India Programme and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the details of the schemes of the Central Government in the State of Maharashtra to encourage rural sports activities under the Khelo India Programme;
- (c) whether Government has planned to ensure the availability of trained professionals for mentoring young talent in rural parts of the country; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS & SPORTS
(SHRI ANURAG SINGH THAKUR)

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

Statement referred to in reply to parts (a) to (d) in respect of Rajya Sabha Starred Question No. 126 for reply on 14.12.2023 regarding khelo india programme asked by Shri Dhananjay Bhimrao Mahadik, Hon'ble Member of Parliament.

(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The 'Khelo India – National Programme for Development of Sports' a Central Sector Scheme of this Ministry aims at strengthening the entire sports ecosystem to promote the twin objectives of mass participation and promotion of excellence in sports across the country. It focuses on broad-basing of sports among the youth and promotion of sports activities throughout the country, including rural areas. Under this scheme, talented sportspersons are identified in priority sports disciplines in which the country has potential or in advantageous position to perform at international sporting events. The athletes identified through this scheme are from across the country i.e. both rural and urban areas, including from the State of Maharashtra. At present, 2752 athletes are being supported under Khelo India Scheme across country.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. As a part of the Government's vision to strengthen the sports ecosystem in the country at the grassroots level, a low-cost, effective sports training mechanism has been developed wherein the notified Khelo India Centres (KICs) have provision for engagement of "Past Champion Athletes" as coaches and mentors for the trainees at the various KICs across the country.

Further, the expert coaches have been recruited/ hired to train the Khelo India Athletes (KIA) in National Centre of Excellences (NCOEs). The accredited sports academies, where KIAs are inducted, are financially supported to ensure the availability of trained professionals to impart the best coaching facility.

Further, Sports Authority of India (SAI), through its Centres including NCOEs, SAI Training Centres (STCs), Extension Centres of STCs, is providing support to selected athletes across country including from rural areas, in the form of expert coaches, sports equipment, boarding and lodging, sports kit, competition exposure, educational expenses, medical/ insurance and stipend.
