

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS  
(DEPARTMENT OF SPORTS)  
**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION No-1436**  
ANSWERED ON- 14/12/2023

**POLICY TO ENCOURAGE DIFFERENTLY-ABLED SPORTSPERSONS**

1436 SHRI ANIL DESAI:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that Sheetal Devi, a 16 year both hands amputee won gold in Archery in recently held Asian Para Games in China;
- (b) if so, the details of this glorious feat;
- (c) the manner in which Government and people felicitated this golden girl; and
- (d) the details of the policy to encourage such differently-abled people?

**ANSWER**

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

(a) & (b): Yes, sir. Ms. Sheetal Devi has won Gold Medal (Individual and Mixed Team Compound) and Silver Medal (Doubles Compound) in Archery during Para Asian Games 2022 recently held at Hangzhou, China.

(c): The Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports gives cash awards to sportspersons for their winning medals in international sports events, including Para Asian Games, in the form of incentive under the 'Cash Awards to medal winners in international sports events and their coaches' scheme.

(d): Under the Scheme of Assistance to National Sports Federations (NSFs), the para-athletes are provided all requisite facilities at par with other sportspersons, besides their special needs. Para-sports have been placed in the "Priority" category so that Para Athletes are provided maximum assistance under the Scheme.

Also, customized training as per the requirements of individual athletes is being provided under the Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS). The talented para-athletes are being selected and provided financial assistance like Out of Pocket Allowance, equipment support, coaches etc.

All the Sports Authority of India (SAI) Stadiums and training centres have been made disabled-friendly and up-gradation of the same is carried out from time to time to ensure comfort of differently-abled athletes.

SAI has established a Para Centre under its National Centre of Excellence (NCOE) Scheme at SAI Regional Centre, Gandhinagar. The centre is operational in the disciplines of Athletics, Swimming, Powerlifting & Table Tennis.

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