

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS & SPORTS
DEPARTMENT OF SPORTS
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-791
ANSWERED ON- 08/02/2024

Sports promotion schemes for women and marginalised sportspersons

791. DR. SUMER SINGH SOLANKI:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government runs schemes to promote sports that are gender-neutral and equally cater to all sections, including women and marginalised sportspersons;
- (b) whether it is also a fact that there is a dedicated sub-component of ‘Sports for Women’ under the ‘Khelo India’ scheme and if so, the details of participation made thereunder so far; and
- (c) whether it is a fact that dedicated training centres and stadiums have been set up to promote sports, among disabled sportspersons as well?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (c) : Yes, Sir. This Ministry is running various sports promotional schemes across the country which are gender neutral and equally cater to all sections, including women and marginalised 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.

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. 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.

A Para Centre under National Centre of Excellence (NCOE) Scheme of Sports Authority of India (SAI) has been established at Gandhinagar to promote sports among the differently abled sportspersons. The centre is operational in the disciplines of Athletics, Swimming, Powerlifting & Table Tennis.
