

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS
(DEPARTMENT OF SPORTS)
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO -794
ANSWERED ON 08/02/2024

ACCESS TO STATE-OF-THE-ART TRAINING FACILITIES

794. DR. ASHOK KUMAR MITTAL:

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

(a) whether Government has taken measures to ensure that the athletes and coaches have access to state-of-the-art training facilities and resources to enhance their performance and competitiveness and if so, the detail thereof;

(b) whether Government has plans to ensure that the support staff is adequately trained, equipped and provided with the necessary resources to fulfill their roles effectively in the State of Punjab and if so, the detail thereof; and

(c) whether Government has plans to develop para-athlete centres in States to promote and motivate the athletes, coaches and support staff for future including the State of Punjab and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS

(SHRI ANURAG SINGH THAKUR)

(a) & (b): "Sports" being a State subject, the responsibility of promotion and development of sports, including providing state-of-the-art training facilities and resources to athletes and coaches, rests primarily with the respective State Governments. The Central Government (Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports) supplements their efforts through its various schemes. Thus, some of the important measures that the Government has taken to provide access to state-of-the-art training facilities to athletes to enhance their performance in mega sports events viz. Olympics and other International Events, are as follows:

- (i) Sports Authority of India (SAI) has established National Centres of Excellence (NCOEs) across the country to impart specialized training to promising athletes.
- (ii) 23 NCOEs have been established across the country where 3159 athletes are being trained.

- (iii) Athletes are provided state-of-the-art infrastructure and playing facilities, sports science backup, individualized diet prescribed by trained nutritionists and overall supervision under the best coaches, qualified support staff and High Performance Directors.
- (iv) The Government has launched the Khelo India Scheme with twin objectives of promoting mass participation and excellence in Sports. The Scheme focuses on five components, namely, Creation and Upgradation of Sports Infrastructure; Sports Competitions and Talent Development; Khelo India Centres and Sports Academies; Fit India Movement; and Promotion of Inclusiveness through Sports.
- (v) Khelo India Centres have been set up across the country at the district level, including rural areas, providing employment to more than 800 Past Champion Athletes and strengthening grassroots sports ecosystem.
- (vi) A system has been put in place to have Small Khelo India Centres to strengthen the sports ecosystem at the grassroots level to augment the utilisation of existing sports infrastructure available at schools/ organisations / eligible agencies at the block/district level.
- (vii) A low-cost, effective sports training mechanism has been worked out wherein 'Past Champion Athletes' would become coaches and mentors for youngsters, run the sports training centres in an autonomous manner or with support of the State Government and earn their livelihoods.
- (viii) Under the Scheme of Assistance to National Sports Federations (NSFs), identified promising athletes/teams are provided preparatory training at National Coaching Camps, including wholesome nutritious diet, food supplements, equipment, state-of-the-art infrastructure, lodging, travelling facilities, services of reputed Indian and foreign coaches/supporting staff, scientific & medical support, sports kit, etc.

Besides, the Government provides the services of well-trained support staff and equipment through SAI at various NCOEs or SAI Training Centres (STCs) in the State of Punjab. These Centres have also been provided with necessary resources such as Sports Science equipment to fulfil their roles.

At present, 26 past Champion Athletes have been engaged as Coaches to train and mentor the athletes in Khelo India Centres in Punjab. Further, in a bid to nurture sporting talent and elevate athletic performance, three (03) state-of-the-art training centres under Regional Centre, Zirakpur have been established in Punjab:

- STC Ludhiana
- STC Mastuana Sahib
- STC Badal

(c): At present, no proposal is under consideration in this Ministry to develop para-athlete centre in the State of Punjab. However, to promote sports among the differently abled sportspersons, SAI has established a Para Centre under its NCOE Scheme at SAI Regional Centre, Gandhinagar,

Gujarat. The Centre is operational in the disciplines of athletics, swimming, powerlifting, and table tennis.

The selected athletes are provided support in the form of expert coaches, sports equipment, boarding and lodging, sports kit, competition exposure, educational expenses, medical/ insurance and stipend as per the approved scheme norms. All the SAI Stadiums and training centres have been made disabled-friendly and up-gradation of the same is carried out regularly to ensure comfort of differently-abled athletes.
