

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS & SPORTS
DEPARTMENT OF SPORTS
RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO-113
ANSWERED ON 01/08/2024

SPORTS OPPORTUNITIES FOR MUSLIM ATHLETES

113. SHRI MUZIBULLA KHAN:

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

- (a) the measures being taken by Government to address any barriers or challenges faced by Muslim athletes in accessing sports opportunities in the country;
- (b) the examples of successful initiatives or role models that have emerged from the Muslim community in sports; and
- (c) in what manner Government collaborates with sports organizations and communities to foster inclusivity and diversity among athletes, particularly for Muslim youth?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS
(DR. MANSUKH MANDAVIYA)

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY OF RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 113 (8TH POSITION) FOR ANSWER ON 01.08.2024 BY SHRI MUZIBULLA KHAN ON SPORTS OPPORTUNITIES FOR MUSLIM ATHLETES

(a) to (c): ‘Sports’ being a State subject, the responsibility to promote and develop sports in the country rests primarily with the respective State/Union Territory Governments. The Central Government only supplements their efforts. However, the Central Government is running various sports promotional schemes across the country under which equal opportunities are provided to all the sections of the society, including Muslim athletes. These Schemes include Khelo India-National Programme for Development of Sports; Assistance to National Sports Federations (NSFs); Special Awards to Winners in International Sports Events and their Coaches; National Sports Awards; Pension to Meritorious Sportspersons; Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay National Sports Welfare Scheme; National Sports Development Fund; and Running Sports Training Centres through Sports Authority of India (SAI) etc.

Further, religion is not the criteria for selection of athletes under above sports promotional schemes and as such Government does not maintain any religion-specific data of athletes. Achievements in sports are determined by performance of the athlete and the initiatives for identification and nurturing talents are based on potential proven merit.

The Government, through various organizations like Sports Authority of India (SAI), National Sports Federations (NSFs), National Sports Promotion Organizations (NSPOs), Sports Control Boards (SCBs) etc. and schemes like “Khelo India Scheme- National Programme for Development of Sports”, promotes inclusivity and diversity among athletes from all sections of the society.
