

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS
(DEPARTMENT OF SPORTS)
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO – 1273
ANSWRED ON – 01/08/2024

REPRESENTATION AND SUPPORT FOR MUSLIM ATHLETES

1273 SHRI MUZIBULLA KHAN:

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

- (a) the statistics on the representation of Muslim athletes in National sports teams, especially from the State of Odisha;
- (b) the initiatives undertaken by Government to support the participation and development of Muslim youths in sports; and
- (c) whether there are specific programs aimed at encouraging Muslim youths to pursue professional careers in sports?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (c): All the sports schemes of Government of India are equally applicable to sportspersons, irrespective of their religion. Sportspersons are identified on the basis of their talent. Achievements in sports are determined by the performance of the sportsperson, and the initiative for identification and nurturing of talent is based on potential proven merit. Thus, religion-wise statistics about sportspersons in national sports teams are not maintained.

The Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports is implementing various schemes for the development of sports, and to provide benefits/facilities among the youth across the country, viz., (i) Khelo India Scheme; (ii) Assistance to National Sports Federations; (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 Fund; (vii) National Sports Development Fund (NSDF); and (viii) Sports Training Centres through Sports Authority of India.

The details of the above schemes are available in the public domain on the websites of the Ministry and the Sports Authority of India viz., www.yas.nic.in/sports and www.sportsauthorityofindia.nic.in, respectively.
