

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS & SPORTS  
(DEPARTMENT OF SPORTS)  
**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-1753**  
ANSWERED ON- 13/03/2025

**EXPANSION, INCLUSION AND SUPPORT FOR KHELO INDIA ATHLETES**

1753. SHRI SUJEET KUMAR

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

- (a) the long-term strategies that are being developed to expand the Khelo India scheme to include niche and emerging sports, and the criteria for such expansions;
- (b) the manner in which the Ministry plans to address regional disparities in the identification and development of Khelo India Athletes (KIAs), ensuring representation from rural, tribal, and underprivileged areas;
- (c) the steps being taken to integrate para-athletics into mainstream training under the Khelo India Talent Development Programme, and the outcomes which have been achieved; and
- (d) the mechanisms in place to ensure smooth transition for KIAs to elite competitions, including the Olympics and beyond?

**ANSWER**

THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS & SPORTS

(DR. MANSUKH MANDAVIYA)

(a) The Khelo India Scheme aims to infuse sports culture and achieve sporting excellence in the country and also to encourage sports all over the country thus allowing the population to harness the power of sports through its cross-cutting influence, namely, holistic development of children & youth, community development, social integration, gender equality, healthy lifestyle, national pride and economic opportunities related to sports development. Under the Khelo India Scheme, the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports organizes a series of national-level competitions to provide a platform for talented athletes to showcase their skills. These competitions include the Khelo India Youth Games, Khelo India University Games, Khelo India Para Games, and Khelo India Winter Games. So far, six editions of the Khelo India Youth Games, four editions of the Khelo India University Games, five editions of the Khelo India Winter Games, and the first edition of the Khelo India Para Games have been successfully conducted, with participation from 36 States and Union Territories. Inclusion of sports disciplines under Khelo India Scheme is an ongoing process. Indigenous games are also a part of Khelo India Games and depending upon feasibility, efforts are made to increase number of sports disciplines in each Khelo India Game.

(b) Selection of Khelo India Athletes (KIAs) is done on merit through set protocols by the Talent Identification Development Committee (TIDC). TIDC members are deputed for Talent Identification through various competitions across the country including ASMITA (Achieving Sports Milestone by Inspiring Women Through Action) leagues, etc.

(c) Para Sports are included in the Khelo India Talent Development program, with 82 Para Athletes currently as Khelo India Athletes (KIAs). These athletes have achieved notable success, including 6 bronze medals at the Paris Paralympics in para-athletics and para shooting, with 24 KIAs participating in the event.

(d) Khelo India Athletes (KIAs) are provided with financial support of Rs. 6.28 lakh annually for training, diet, lodging, coaching, medical care, etc. They are offered opportunities to join elite centres like the National Centre of Excellence (NCOE) and Khelo India Accredited Academies (KIAA). Notably, 136 KIAs transitioned to the Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS), and their achievements include 3 bronze medals at the Paris Olympics in hockey, shooting, and wrestling; 6 bronze medals at the Paris Paralympics in para-athletics and para shooting; and 42 medals at the Asian Games in sports like archery, athletics, boxing, hockey, kabaddi, shooting, and wrestling.

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