

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS & SPORTS
(DEPARTMENT OF SPORTS)
RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO- 311
ANSWERED ON- 21/08/2025

**MEASURES FOR NURTURING TALENTS OF THE SPORTSPERSONS FROM RURAL
AREAS**

311. DR. KANIMOZHI NVN SOMU:

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

- (a) whether Government has taken any measures for nurturing talents of the sportspersons from rural areas, particularly making them excellent athletes, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the number of the places where racetracks and related infrastructure have been developed by Government to nurture sports talent in the State of Tamil Nadu; and
- (c) the measures taken or likely to be taken by Government for nurturing the new rising athletes and other sports talent?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS & SPORTS

(DR. MANSUKH MANDAVIYA)

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

**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (c) OF RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 311 ANSWERED ON 21.08.2025 REGARDING MEASURES
FOR NURTURING TALENTS OF THE SPORTSPERSONS FROM RURAL AREAS
ASKED BY DR. KANIMOZHI NVN SOMU, HON'BLE MP, RAJYA SABHA**

(a) 'Sports' being a State subject, the responsibility of development of sports, including measures for nurturing talents of the sports persons from rural areas, particularly making them excellent athletes and creation of racetracks and related infrastructure to nurture sports talent, rests primarily with the State/Union Territory Governments. The Union Government supplements their efforts by bridging critical gaps. However, the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports implements the following schemes to promote sports in the country, including the State of Tamil Nadu for nurturing the new rising athletes and other sports talent:

- i) Khelo India - National Programme for Development of Sports;
- ii) Assistance to National Sports Federations;
- iii) Cash Incentive to Medal Winners in International Sports Events and their Coaches;
- iv) National Sports Awards;
- v) Pension to Meritorious Sportspersons;
- vi) Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay National Welfare Program for Sportspersons;
- vii) National Sports Development Fund (NSDF); and
- viii) Running Sports Training Centres through Sports Authority of India (SAI).

Details of the above schemes are available in the public domain on the websites of this Ministry and the SAI.

(b) Five sports infrastructure projects, including four Athletic Tracks, have been sanctioned in the State of Tamil Nadu under the Khelo India Scheme of this Ministry.

(c) Several initiatives have been undertaken by Ministry to nurture new and emerging athletes and other sports talents. One such initiative is Khelo India Rising Talent Identification (KIRTI), which aims to identify talented individual aged 9 to 18 years, through scientific testing methods.

Further, under the component, "Sports Competition and Talent Development" of the Khelo India Scheme, talented sportspersons nationwide, are identified as a Khelo India Athlete (KIA). Selection of these athletes is based on their outstanding performance in events such as the Khelo India Games, National Championships, and through open and transparent selection trials organized by the relevant National Sports Federations and the School Games Federation of India. Selection of Khelo India Athletes (KIAs) is done on merit through set protocols by the Talent Identification Development Committee (TIDC). Further, under the component "Khelo India Centres & Sports Academies" of Khelo India Scheme, the identified talents are given option to join the accredited Khelo India academies and also provided financial assistance of Rs. 6.28 Lakh per annum [including Rs 1.20 Lakh as Out of Pocket Allowance (OPA)] towards training expenses, coaching, competitions exposure, education, equipment support, scientific support etc. These athletes participate in the Khelo India Games, which adhere to international technical standards. They also compete with national and international athletes at various forums, enhancing their skills and strengthening the country's talent pool for future national and international events.
