

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS
(DEPARTMENT OF SPORTS)

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-2226
ANSWERED ON- 07/08/2025

Holistic Welfare and infrastructure support for sportspersons

2226 Shri Sadanand Mhalu Shet Tanavade:

Will the Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports be pleased to state:

- (a) the key schemes and initiatives currently in place to promote the welfare of Indian-Sportspersons, including financial-support, modern training infrastructure, insurance and mental-health counselling;
- (b) the budgetary allocation and expenditure under major athlete welfare schemes such as the Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS), Khelo India and the Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay National Welfare Fund for Sportspersons during the last five years;
- (c) the mechanisms adopted to ensure timely and transparent disbursement of incentives, pensions and assistance to sportspersons at national and grassroots levels; and
- (d) whether Government is considering a centralised digital portal for tracking athlete entitlements and grievances and if so, the status thereof?

ANSWER

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

(a) 'Sports' being a State subject the responsibility for promoting sports, including to promote the welfare of sportspersons by providing financial support/modern training infrastructure/insurance and mental counselling, rests primarily with the respective State Government. However, the Central Government supplements their efforts through its various schemes/programs/initiatives, as under:

- Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS): Provides comprehensive support to selected sportspersons including monthly Out-of-Pocket Allowance (OPA), access to international training, coaching, physiotherapy, mental conditioning, and equipment.
- Khelo India Scheme: Focuses on talent identification, infrastructure development, athlete scholarships, and coaching support at both grassroots and elite levels.

- Assistance to National Sports Federations (ANSF): Financial support is provided towards training of athletes which includes all requisite facilities for their preparations including wholesome nutritious diet, food supplements, equipment support, state-of-the-art infrastructure, lodging, travelling facilities, services of reputed Coaches/supporting staff, scientific & medical support, sports kit, etc. besides financial assistance for their training abroad and participation in international competitions in India and abroad.
- Scheme of Sports Fund for Pension to Meritorious Sportspersons provides additional financial security to sportspersons post retirement from active sports career in the form of life-time pension ranging from ₹12,000/- to ₹20,000/- per month. The sportspersons, who are retired from an active sports career and won medals in Olympic Games, Paralympic Games, World Cup, World Championships, Asian Games, Para Asian Games and Commonwealth Games, are eligible for life-time pension under the scheme.
- Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay National Welfare Program for Sportspersons provides financial assistance, ranging from ₹2 lakhs to ₹10 lakhs, to sportspersons and their families for injury, hardship, equipment, and event participation, etc.

The details of aforementioned schemes/programmes are available on this Ministry's website at <https://yas.nic.in/>

Further, to provide mental wellness support to sportspersons, sport psychologists and mental trainers are engaged at both national team and individual levels. Presence of a sports psychologist, including High-Performance Analyst (Psychology) or Performance Analyst (Psychology) is ensured at the National Centres of Excellence (NCoE) of SAI. These sports psychologists are responsible for helping the athletes with the mental training pertaining to optimal performance, as well as enabling them to achieve emotional wellbeing also.

Besides, the Government has recently announced Khelo Bharat Niti-2025 which also, *inter-alia*, has provisions to promote the welfare of Indian-Sportspersons.

(b) The budgetary allocation and expenditure for the last 5 year under the following schemes is as under:

(i). Khelo India Scheme:

Year	Approved allocation (In ₹ Crores)	
	Allocation	Actual Expenditure
2020-21	328.77	338.06
2021-22	869.00	764.29
2022-23	600.00	596.39
2023-24	880.00	872.20
2024-25	746.54	620.75

(ii): Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS)*

S.no	Year	Amount disbursed (In ₹ Crores)
1.	2020-21	9.11
2.	2021-22	27.6
3.	2022-23	33.9
4.	2023-24	16.68
5.	2024-25	14.00

*TOPS is a demand driven initiative and does not have the annual budget allocation.

(iii) Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay National Welfare Program for Sportspersons:

S. No.	Financial Year	Allocation (In ₹ Crores)	Expenditure (In ₹ Crores)
1.	2020-21	2.00	2.00
2.	2021-22	2.00	1.57
3.	2022-23	2.00	1.07
4.	2023-24	2.00	1.07
5.	2024-25	2.00	0.95

(c) The Government has adopted a series of measures to ensure the timely and transparent disbursement of financial assistance and incentives to sportspersons/coaches under various schemes. Key measures among these is the implementation of Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) mechanism for disbursement and online portals to digitize the process of inviting applications, thus ensuring the timely and efficient disbursement of financial assistance/incentives to beneficiaries. Under this system, financial assistance/support is directly transferred into the bank accounts of the sportspersons/coaches thereby eliminating delays, reduces administrative bottlenecks, and ensures that the benefits reach the intended beneficiaries in a timely and efficient manner.

(d) The National Sports Repository System (NSRS) offers a comprehensive platform to support athletes and stakeholders through features such as monitoring of entitlements & pay and grievance redressal support.
