

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS & SPORTS
DEPARTMENT OF SPORTS
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-3352
ANSWERED ON- 21/08/2025

PARTICIPATION OF WOMEN IN SPORTS

3352. SMT. KIRAN CHOUDHRY:
SMT. MAYA NAROLIYA:

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

- (a) the steps taken by the Ministry to ensure equal participation of women across all sporting disciplines and support structures;
- (b) the number of female athletes currently part of the TOPS scheme, and the support extended to them;
- (c) the objective of the Asmita Women's League;
- (d) the scale of institutional partnerships for the Asmita Leagues;
- (e) the number of women and girls participated in Asmita Women's Leagues across all districts since their inception, and what has been the increase in participation; and
- (f) the initiatives Government has launched to increase female participation in sports at the grassroots level?

ANSWER

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

(a): Sports being a State subject, the responsibility of development of sports, including promotion of women athletes in the country, rests primarily with the State/Union Territory governments, and the Central government only supplements their efforts. However, this Ministry is running various sports promotional schemes across the country which promote equal participation for both men and women sportspersons across all sporting disciplines and support structures. These schemes include: (i) Khelo India – National Programme for Development of Sports; (ii) Assistance to National Sports Federations (NSFs); (iii) Cash Incentives 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; (viii) Running Sports Training centres through Sports Authority of India (SAI); and (ix) National Centre for Sports Science and Research (NCSSR). Details of these schemes are

available in the public domain on the website of the Ministry at <https://yas.nic.in/>. Further, under the Khelo India scheme, there is a dedicated sub-component of “Sports for women” wherein emphasis is laid on such sports disciplines where there is less participation of women.

(b): Presently, a total of 130 Women athletes are receiving financial assistance under TOP Scheme. Further, all Women athletes under the TOP Scheme are eligible for financial assistance for their preparations for Olympic and Paralympic Games. Selected athletes are supported with funding from NSDF for customized training and other support not available under normal schemes of the Ministry. Out of pocket allowance (OPA) is paid @ Rs. 50,000/- per month to Core group athletes and Rs. 25,000/- for Development Group athletes.

(c) to (f): ASMITA Women League has been introduced in the country in order to increase the participation of women in Sports by organizing various leagues, to utilize the leagues as a platform for identification of new talents and evaluation of existing Khelo India athletes and to provide competition exposure to women athletes of different age categories across the Country. Further, the Asmita Leagues are conducted in partnership with various National Sports Federations. Till now women leagues have been organized in 29 sports disciplines across the country. Total 1310 competitions have been organized for Women athletes with 138875 participants.
