

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS
(DEPARTMENT OF SPORTS)
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No-1434
ANSWERED ON-11/12/2025

GRIEVANCE REDRESSAL MECHANISM FOR ATHLETES

1434 DR. ASHOK KUMAR MITTAL:

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

- (a) the steps undertaken by Government to ensure that India's National Sports Code provides accessible, timely grievance redressal mechanisms for athletes who feel wronged by federation decisions or Government actions;
- (b) whether there are independent ombudsman structures or review panels outside sports federations to avoid conflicts of interest and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) the measures taken to manage compensation or reinstatement of athletes denied opportunities in national or international events; and
- (d) the reforms being considered to ensure that future athletes are not forced into litigation or public campaigns to assert their rights?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS

(DR. MANSUKH MANDAVIYA)

(a) to (d): The Government recognizes National Sports Federations (NSFs) at the national level for the promotion and development of sports, as per the criteria laid down in the National Sports Development Code of India, 2011 (Sports Code). As per Sports Code, NSFs are required to introduce machinery for the redressal of players' grievances. The selection of sportspersons for participation in international events is the responsibility of the concerned NSF. The NSFs are required to adopt impartial and transparent selection procedures and ensuring accountability and transparency at all levels.

The Ministry on 05.03.2025 issued instructions relating to transparent selection of sportspersons for participation in international events, inclusion in coaching camps and selection of coaches/support staff.

Further, the Ministry on 24.09.2025 has brought out instructions relating to selection criteria for participation of individuals and teams in Asian Games 2026 and other multi-sports events with a view to lay down a transparent and equitable framework aiming to ensure that the athletes who have real chance of winning medal are only considered for participation in multi-disciplinary sports events.
