

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS
DEPARTMENT OF SPORTS
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO - 2238
ANSWERED ON- 18/12/2025

**TALENT IDENTIFICATION PROGRAMMES FOR PROMOTING POTENTIAL
ATHLETES**

2238. DR. ASHOK KUMAR MITTAL

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

- (a) whether Government maintains the record of potential athletes and if so, the year-wise and State-wise details thereof, State-wise and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (b) the steps taken by Government to institutionalize talent identification programmes to avoid biases and ensure inclusivity;
- (c) the details of how Government ensures that schools promote a diverse range of sports promoting talent identification of potential athletes; and
- (d) whether Government has any plans to bridge the gap between talent identification programmes and access to professional coaching and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS

(DR. MANSUKH MANDAVIYA)

(a) The details of potential athletes under SAI Sports Promotional Scheme, and Khelo India Scheme, year-wise and State-wise are provided at **Annexure-I**.

(b) Athletes under Sports Authority of India (SAI) Sports Promotional Schemes are identified in accordance with the approved selection criteria of the schemes. The details of the same are available in the public domain at the website of SAI.

The protocols have been formed for each sport which includes technical experts, sports science experts, prominent athletes, coaches and nominated members of Federations. This ensures objectivity and parity in selections and weeding out.

(c) & (d) Under Khelo India scheme, strategy to promote a diverse range of sports, facilitate athlete talent identification, and bridge the gap to professional coaching is primarily managed through the given components:

- **Khelo India Centres (KICs):** Establishing one KIC per district where Past Champion Athletes (PCAs) are engaged as coaches to provide professional training at the grassroots level. As part of the capacity building initiatives, Past Champion Athletes (PCAs) have been trained to inculcate correct techniques required for grassroots level training, which shall help in broad-basing the grassroots talent.
- **Khelo India State Centres of Excellence (KISCE):** KISCE strives to establish a world-class sports facility in each State and Union Territory. Setting up world-class facilities in each State/UT to provide advanced coaching and sports science support. The support is given for engaging high quality manpower (coaching, sports science), procuring Sports Science equipment and in periodic assessment of athletes in various parameters.
- **Khelo India Accredited Academies:** KIAAs are to support all best efforts in the country including private academies where in training of Khelo India Athletes is facilitated. Athletes have access to state-of-the-art training facilities, including sports complexes and academies.

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a) OF RAJYA SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2238 FOR 18.12.2025 ASKED BY DR. ASHOK KUMAR MITTAL REGARDING “TALENT IDENTIFICATION PROGRAMMES FOR PROMOTING POTENTIAL ATHLETES”

YEARWISE AND STATEWISE NO. OF ATHLETES UNDER SPORTS AUTHORITY OF INDIA (SAI) SPORTS PROMOTIONAL SCHEME DURING THE LAST THREE YEARS

SN	State/UT	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025
1	Andhra Pradesh	202	184	249
2	Arunachal Pradesh	167	168	105
3	Assam	690	683	682
4	Bihar	38	31	29
5	Chhattisgarh	153	136	130
6	Goa	74	72	62
7	Gujarat	203	195	261
8	Haryana	808	796	912
9	Himachal Pradesh	154	147	243
10	Jharkhand	179	191	160
11	Karnataka	404	395	370
12	Kerala	621	590	614
13	Madhya Pradesh	500	512	563
14	Maharashtra	508	495	708
15	Manipur	622	648	549
16	Meghalaya	154	155	149
17	Mizoram	141	142	110
18	Nagaland	63	63	65
19	Orissa	270	270	321
20	Punjab	618	602	480
21	Rajasthan	286	287	232
22	Sikkim	64	64	74
23	Tamilnadu	251	248	271
24	Telangana	130	131	126
25	Tripura	74	74	66
26	Uttar Pradesh	530	533	574
27	Uttarakhand	71	78	89
28	West Bengal	417	371	398
29	Andaman & Nicobar	46	47	148
30	Chandigarh	5	5	0
31	Daman Diu and Dadra Nagar Haveli	0	0	0
32	Delhi	417	349	475
33	Jammu & Kashmir	95	95	94
34	Ladakh	33	33	60
35	Lakshadweep	2	2	92

36	Pondicherry	179	176	94
	TOTAL:	9169	8968	9555

**YEARWISE AND STATEWISE NO. OF ATHLETES UNDER KHELO INDIA SCHEME
DURING THE LAST THREE YEARS**

SN	State / UT	2022-23	2023-24	2024 -25
1	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	3	3	2
2	Andhra Pradesh	55	49	65
3	Arunachal Pradesh	11	14	16
4	Assam	43	39	44
5	Bihar	9	14	11
6	Chandigarh	40	30	40
7	Chhattisgarh	35	45	30
8	Daman Diu and Dadra Nagar Haveli	2	3	3
9	Delhi	199	163	147
10	Goa	18	10	7
11	Gujarat	81	65	62
12	Haryana	432	467	455
13	Himachal Pradesh	34	28	32
14	Jammu & Kashmir	20	19	17
15	Jharkhand	40	47	52
16	Karnataka	136	138	154
17	Kerala	103	108	92
18	Ladakh	1	0	1
19	Lakshadweep	0	1	1
20	Madhya Pradesh	100	114	106
21	Maharashtra	365	347	313
22	Manipur	126	105	101
23	Meghalaya	3	2	4
24	Mizoram	28	15	10
25	Nagaland	1	1	1
26	Odisha	57	70	75
27	Puducherry	7	7	6
28	Punjab	179	169	149
29	Rajasthan	81	105	133
30	Sikkim	2	1	1
31	Tamil Nadu	167	173	194
32	Telangana	51	59	67
33	Tripura	8	5	4
34	Uttar Pradesh	191	186	195
35	Uttarakhand	40	32	43
36	West Bengal	91	118	112
Total		2759	2752	2745
