

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS & SPORTS
DEPARTMENT OF SPORTS
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-632
ANSWERED ON- 04/12/2025

SUPPORT TO ATHLETES FROM MARGINALISED BACKGROUND

632# SHRI SANJAY SINGH:

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

(a) whether Government has established any specific mechanism, under the National Sports Policy 2025, to identify and support athletes from marginalized backgrounds, especially Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes, rural areas and women athletes who are unable to pursue sports due to financial and infrastructural constraints;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government is providing full financial support for travel, training and accommodation for participation of such athletes at all levels, including district, State, national and international and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS

(DR. MANSUKH MANDAVIYA)

(a) to (b): Yes, Sir. The objectives of Khelo Bharat Niti-2025 inter-alia include to ensure equitable access to sports infrastructure across the country and to establish comprehensive sports programs for all participation groups, from grassroots to elite levels including Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes, rural areas and women athletes from around the country, and promote social development and inclusion through sports. It includes provisions to establish dedicated sports facilities with services tailored to their specific needs to foster inclusivity and increase participation in sports among women, persons with disabilities and economically weaker sections in sports.

It also has provisions to organize regular sporting leagues, designed specifically for these groups, to enhance engagement and provide sustained opportunities for involvement. It also focuses on bridging the rural-urban gap by improving access to sports training and facilities for athletes from all backgrounds. The policy emphasizes the integration of sports with school curricula, community participation, and partnerships with stakeholders to reduce

training costs and increase outreach. Presently, under the ASMITA – Sports for Women initiative, the Government supports conduct of leagues for women especially in underserved areas.

(c): Yes, sir. Sports being a State subject, the responsibility of development and promotion of sports including providing support for participation of athletes, rests primarily with the State Governments, and the Central Government only supplements their efforts. The Central Government provides support /financial assistance in the form of expert coaches, sports equipment, boarding, lodging, sports kit, competition exposure (Domestic and Foreign), educational expenses, miscellaneous expenditure, Insurance and Contingencies including travelling to selected athletes as per the approved norms of Sports promotional schemes. Further, under the Khelo India program, comprehensive support, which entail funding of ₹6.28 lakhs per annum per Khelo India Athlete (including ₹10,000 per month out-of-pocket allowance for each KIA) is provided for training of Khelo India Athletes. Under the Scheme of Assistance to National Sports Federations (ANSF), the Central Government also provides support to athletes for participation in international tournaments.
