

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS  
DEPARTMENT OF SPORTS  
**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 153**  
ANSWERED ON - 29/01/2026

**IDENTIFYING YOUNG ATHLETES**

153 SHRI MASTHAN RAO YADAV BEEDHA:

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

- (a) whether Government has taken steps to expand the National Talent Search portal for identifying young athletes at the school level;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) whether special focus is being given to south coastal districts for scouting and nurturing such talents?

**ANSWER**

THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS

(DR. MANSUKH MANDAVIYA)

(a) to (c) Khelo India Talent Development (KITD) focuses on identifying young sporting talent at all levels. The programme provides structured training supported by professional coaching, scientific training methods, and regular competition exposure. It ensures athletes have access to quality sports infrastructure, equipment, and tournaments, while creating clear performance pathways to Khelo India Academies, National Camps, and other elite sports schemes.

For nurturing athletes, total number of 1067 Khelo India Centres (KICs) have been notified across the nation including south coastal districts.

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