

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS
DEPARTMENT OF SPORTS
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No-3195
ANSWERED ON- 19/03/2026

IMPROVING PERFORMANCE IN INTERNATIONAL EVENTS

3195 SHRI HARBHAJAN SINGH:

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

(a) whether the Ministry has any roadmap to improve the country's performance in upcoming international events such as the Olympics, Commonwealth Games and Asian Games; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and how talent identification is being streamlined?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS

(DR. MANSUKH MANDAVIYA)

(a) & (b) Preparation for International events including Olympics, Asian Games and Commonwealth Games (CWG) is a continuous process. Plans/Proposals of the National Sports Federations (NSFs) relating to training, competitive exposure, coaches and support personnel including foreign coaches, for preparing sportspersons/teams for the international events including mega-sports events such as Olympics, Asian Games, CWG etc. are deliberated and finalized in the Annual Calendar for Training and Competition (ACTC) meetings.

The Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports supports the Indian sportspersons/teams through various schemes, such as Scheme of Assistance to National Sports Federations and Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS). The Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports, the National Sports Federations (NSFs), including the Indian Olympic Association (IOA), and the Sports Authority of India (SAI) work in close coordination for providing best facilities, training, equipment support as also a wholesome nutritious diet required for preparation of the teams and sportspersons for the forthcoming international sports events.

Under the Target Olympic Podium Scheme, identified athletes are provided comprehensive assistance for specialized training and competition exposure. This includes funding for international training camps, engagement of foreign and domestic coaches, sports science and medical support, procurement of specialized equipment, participation in international competitions, and customized training programmes based on individual athlete requirements. Financial assistance is also extended to cover out-of-pocket allowances and other performance-related needs.

Under the Scheme of Assistance to NSFs, the Ministry provides financial assistance to recognized NSFs towards training of athletes which includes all requisite facilities for their preparations including wholesome nutritious diet, food supplements, equipment support, state-of-the-art infrastructure, lodging, travelling facilities, services of reputed Indian and Foreign Coaches/supporting staff, scientific & medical support, sports kit, etc. besides financial assistance for their training abroad and participation in international competitions in India and abroad. The Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports has revised the norms of assistance on 22.05.2025. The revised norms under the Scheme mandates NSFs to ensure that at least 20% of their annual budget is earmarked for grassroots development through their affiliate units.

Furthermore, Government has also established the National Centre of Sports Science and Research (NCSSR) at New Delhi to better integrate sports science into the overall sports ecosystem.

Responsibility of talent identification is that of State Governments and concerned NSFs. To supplement the efforts of NSFs and States/UTs, the Ministry through Khelo India Scheme's Sports Competitions and Talent Development vertical and the SAI through its Sports Promotion Schemes such as National Sports Talent Contest Scheme (NSTC), SAI Training Centres (STC) identify, nurture and groom the talented sportspersons.
