

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS & SPORTS
(DEPARTMENT OF SPORTS)
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO- 3199
ANSWERED ON- 19/03/2026

OPEARTIONALISING KHELO INDIA EXCELLENCE CENTRE AT GULMARG

3199. SHRI CHOWDRY MOHAMMAD RAMZAN

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

- (a) whether Khelo India Excellence Centre for Winter Games, announced in 2021 and inaugurated in 2022 at Gulmarg during the 2nd Khelo India Winter Games, remains non-existent on the ground with no visible progress;
- (b) the reasons for this delay, current status of land acquisition, funding, infrastructure approvals along with a revised timeline for completion; and
- (c) how the absence of this centre has increased training costs and challenges for winter athletes and the measures being taken to operationalize it at the earliest?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS & SPORTS

(DR. MANSUKH MANDAVIYA)

(a) to (c) Under the Khelo India Scheme, Khelo India State Centres of Excellence are established in collaboration with the State Governments and Union Territory Administrations by upgrading existing sports facilities to high-performance standards. The establishment of such centres is a demand-driven process in which proposals are received from the respective State/UT Governments and examined through a Viability Gap Analysis to assess requirements relating to equipment, coaching and sports science support.

At present, 35 KISCEs have been notified across 34 States/UTs, including two in Jammu & Kashmir. The development of a specialised Winter Sports Centre at Gulmarg requires finalisation of suitable land, preparation of the Detailed Project Report (DPR), and requisite administrative and financial approvals in coordination with the UT Administration.

Meanwhile, the Government continues to promote winter sports through initiatives under the Khelo India Scheme, including the organisation of six editions of the Khelo India Winter Games at Gulmarg and Leh with participation of over 5,200 athletes. Equipment procured for these Games is retained locally to support athlete training.

Further, 100 Khelo India Centres have been approved in J&K, employing 91 Past Champion Athletes as coaches to train about 2,448 sportspersons. Identified athletes from the UT also receive annual financial assistance of ₹6.28 lakh each, including ₹10,000 per month as Out-of-Pocket Allowance, to meet training and dietary expenses.
