

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS  
DEPARTMENT OF SPORTS  
**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION No-4473**  
ANSWERED ON- 02/04/2026

**PERFORMANCE OF INDIAN HOCKEY TEAMS**

4473 SMT. RAJANI ASHOKRAO PATIL:

Will the Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has reviewed the performance of Indian hockey teams in recent international competitions;
- (b) the trends in results, rankings and achievements of men's and women's hockey teams in tournaments such as Olympics, World Cup, Asian Games and FIH Hockey Pro League;
- (c) the funding and resources allocated to grassroots hockey development, training centres and athlete support programmes;
- (d) the talent identification, scouting and coaching mechanisms to nurture promising hockey players at school, district and State levels; and
- (e) the reasons why systemic weaknesses in infrastructure, coaching and support persist despite increased investment and the steps proposed to strengthen India's hockey ecosystem and international competitiveness?

**ANSWER**

THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS

(DR. MANSUKH MANDAVIYA)

(a) & (b) Responsibility of promotion of specific sports discipline is that of the concerned National Sports Federation (NSF). The Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports has recognised the Hockey India as an NSF for promotion and development of Hockey in the country.

Rankings of Hockey teams are dynamic and influenced by match results, strength of opposition, and frequency of matches. The Sports Authority of India (SAI), an autonomous body under the aegis of the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, regularly engages with the Hockey India to review the performance and overall development of the sport of Hockey and provides its advice accordingly. The recent trends in performance of Indian men's and women's hockey teams indicate overall improvement with consistent presence among top global teams.

(c) to (e) 'Sports' being a State subject, the responsibility of development of sports including infrastructure development, talent identification, scouting etc. rests primarily with the respective State/Union Territory Governments. The Union Government only supplements their efforts.

The Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports supports the Indian Hockey sportspersons/teams through various schemes, such as Scheme of Assistance to National Sports Federations and Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS).

Under the Scheme of Assistance to NSFs, the Ministry provides financial assistance to Hockey India towards training of athletes which includes all requisite facilities for their preparations including wholesome nutritious diet, food supplements, equipment support, 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.

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.

Selected athletes are inducted into various SAI training schemes, including National Centres of Excellence (NCOEs), SAI Training Centres (STCs), and Extension Centres, where they receive systematic training under qualified coaches. In the hockey discipline, SAI currently operates 10 NCOEs, 15 STCs, and 03 Extension Centres.

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.

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.

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