

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS & SPORTS
DEPARTMENT OF SPORTS

RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. *124
ANSWERED ON 30.07.2026

EMPOWERING YOUTH

*124. SMT. SUMITRA BALMIK:

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

- (a) the details of steps being taken by Government to promote sporting facilities amongst differently abled persons and women;
- (b) the details of various schemes and financial layout to support youth belonging to such section; and
- (c) the steps being taken to promote awareness against drugs and career orientation of youth of such section?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS

(DR MANSUKH MANDAVIYA)

(a) to (c): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (A) TO (C) IN RESPECT OF
RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. *124 FOR REPLY ON 30.07.2026
REGARDING EMPOWERING YOUTH ASKED BY SMT. SUMITRA BALMIK.**

(a) & (b): ‘Sports’ being a State subject, the responsibility of development sports, including promotion of sporting facilities amongst differently abled persons and women, rests primarily with the State/Union Territory Governments. The Union Government supplement the efforts of the States, by implementing various schemes for the promotion and development of sports across the country. The schemes are as follows:

- (i) Khelo India – National Programme for Development of Sports;
- (ii) Assistance to National Sports Federations (NSFs);
- (iii) Cash Incentives to Medal Winners in International Sports Events and their coaches;
- (iv) National Sports Awards;
- (v) Pension to Meritorious Sportspersons;
- (vi) Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay National Welfare Program for Sportspersons;
- (vii) National Sports Development Fund;
- (viii) Running Sports Training centres through Sports Authority of India (SAI); and
- (ix) National Centre for Sports Science and Research (NCSSR).

The details of these schemes are available in the public domain on the website of the Ministry (<https://yas.nic.in>).

Apart from above, the Government is committed to promoting sports among women and persons with disabilities through the following initiatives:

- Financial assistance is provided to National Sports Federations (NSFs), including those for para sports, Deaf sports & Special Olympics for training, coaching, equipment, competition exposure, and participation in national and international events.
- Women athletes and para-athletes are also supported under schemes such as the Khelo India Scheme, Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS), and the National Centre of Excellence (NCOE) programme.
- Sports infrastructure developed by Department of Sports incorporates provisions for accessibility by differently abled persons.
- The Sports Authority of India’s National Centre of Excellence (NCoE) in Gandhinagar is India’s premier, specialized training facility for elite para-sports training. The State-of-the-art facility featuring dedicated para-athlete housing, high-performance strength and conditioning halls, and specialized sports science centers, support para-athletes on global stage.

- The ASMITA (Achieving Sports Milestone by Inspiring Women Through Action) initiative is dedicated to promoting women's participation in sports by organizing leagues catering to female athletes across the country.
- SAI has also established women-exclusive training centres (NCOE Dharamshala, STC Badal, STC Tellicherry & STC Solalgaon) to encourage greater participation and provide a conducive training environment for women athletes
- Para-athletes are provided with special travel entitlements for participation in competitions and training exposure as per the approved norms.
- The Khelo India Para Games provide a dedicated platform for para-athletes to showcase their sporting excellence and competitive abilities. Special emphasis is given on addressing the specific requirements of para athletes across all relevant functional areas.
- Under the Khelo India Scheme, Khelo India Athletes including para-athletes and female athletes, receive financial packages of ₹6.28 lakh per annum, including a direct monthly Out-of-Pocket Allowance (OPA) of ₹10,000 provided directly to the athlete to manage personal and incidental expenses.

(c) Under the Fit India Movement, a flagship initiative by this Ministry, the Nasha Mukti Bharat Abhiyan has been integrated as a core awareness component. Participants of "Sundays on Cycle", a component under Fit India Movement, are administered the Nasha Mukti pledge, committing them to a drug-free lifestyle.

This Ministry, through MY Bharat, is implementing Nasha Mukti Yuva for Viksit Bharat as a nationwide youth movement towards a Drug-Free India. The campaign began with the Youth Spiritual Summit at Varanasi (18–20 July 2025), where over 550 youth representing more than 125 spiritual organisations participated, culminating in the adoption of the Kashi Sankalp. It subsequently expanded through Nationwide Youth Spiritual Summits at 2,000+ locations, the North-East Regional Chintan Shivir at IIM Shillong (May 2026), and the nationwide Nasha Mukti Yuva for Viksit Bharat Abhiyan. MY Bharat serves as the national digital platform for partner onboarding, volunteer mobilisation, event management and anti-drug campaigns.

The Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment is the nodal agency for drug demand reduction in India and implements the National Action Plan for Drug Demand Reduction (NAPDDR). Under this framework, the Ministry provides financial support to State and Union Territory administrations, non-governmental organizations, and government hospitals to deliver preventive education, early intervention, and comprehensive treatment services. These efforts are operationalized through specialized centers offering counseling, detoxification, youth peer programs, a dedicated toll-free helpline. The Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment is also implementing the Nasha Mukti Bharat Abhiyaan awareness campaign, which drives community-led sensitization with a strong emphasis on educational institutions.
