

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS
DEPARTMENT OF SPORTS
RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO- 278
ANSWERED ON-13/08/2026

PROMOTION OF FOOTBALL IN INDIA

*278 SHRI RAGHAV CHADHA

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

- (a) the details of financial assistance provided by Government for promotion and development of football during the last three years, year-wise;
- (b) the details of football academies and training centres supported by Government, State-wise;
- (c) the details of football tournaments organised or supported by Government during the last three years; and
- (d) the steps taken by Government to promote football among youth in the country?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS
(DR. MANSUKH MANDAVIYA)

- (a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. *278 TO BE ANSWERED ON 13/08/2026 REGARDING “PROMOTION OF FOOTBALL IN INDIA” ASKED BY SHRI RAGHAV CHADHA, HON’BLE MEMBER OF RAJYA SABHA.

(a) to (d) ‘Sports’ being a State subject, the responsibility to promote and develop sports in the country rests primarily with the respective State/Union Territory Governments. Responsibility for promotion and development of a specific sports discipline is that of concerned National Sports Federation (NSF), which in the case of football is the All India Football Federation (AIFF). The Central Government through its various following Schemes supplements the efforts of State/UT Governments and the AIFF for promoting/developing football in the country:

- (i) Scheme of Assistance to National Sports Federation;
- (ii) Khelo India Scheme;
- (iii) Sports Authority of India (SAI)’s sports promotional schemes;
- (iv) National Sports Development Fund (NSDF)

Under the Scheme of Assistance to National Sports Federations (ANSF), funds/financial assistance are allocated recognized NSF-wise and not State/UT-wise. Details of financial assistance given to AIFF during the last three years, are given in the table below:

FY	Allocation (in ₹ cr.)	Expenditure (in ₹ Cr.)
2023-2024	6.95	6.65
2024-2025	8.78	7.68
2025-2026	8.00	3.91

Further, the Government has supported and promoted football through the Sports for Women (SFW) initiative under the Khelo India Scheme, particularly to promote participation of women athletes at the grassroots level. A total financial assistance of approx. ₹5.34 crore has been sanctioned under the initiative during the last three financial years. Further, an amount of more than ₹20 lakh was sanctioned during the financial year 2025-26 for SPANDAN football tournaments, under the Sports for Peace and Development (SPD) vertical of Khelo India Scheme, particularly in border, sensitive and conflict-affected areas.

Further, a total amount of approx. ₹1.80 crore has been released to the AIFF under Khelo India Events Games during the last three years towards the technical conduct of football events in the Khelo India Youth Games, Khelo India University Games, Khelo India Tribal Games.

Additionally, a total of 117 Khelo India athletes in football discipline have been identified under Khelo India Scheme and provided financial assistance package of ₹6.28 lakh per annum (including a direct monthly Out-of-Pocket Allowance of ₹10,000).

Further, under SAI's Sports Promotional Schemes, Football is one of the recognized disciplines where Athletes are selected and provided support in accordance with the approved scheme norms, including boarding and lodging, coaching by qualified coaches, sports science and medical support, sports equipment, training infrastructure, field-of-play facilities, education, competition exposure and other allied facilities, as per the approved scheme norms.

Under the Khelo India Scheme (KIS), creation and upgradation of sports infrastructure is supported by filling critical gaps in existing sports facilities, including those for football, across States/Union Territories. Accordingly, 4 football fields have been sanctioned at a total cost of ₹21.30 crore for promotion and development of football in the country.

Football is also being supported through 198 Khelo India Centres (KICs) and 25 Khelo India Accredited Academies (KIAAs) across the country. The details of the sports infrastructure, including football, sanctioned under the Scheme, across the country, are available in public domain on the dashboard of the Ministry at <https://mdsd.kheloindia.gov.in>

A total of 303 ASMITA Football Leagues have been successfully conducted under the Sports for Women (SFW) initiative, along with 16 SPANDAN Football Tournaments under the Sports for Peace and Development (SPD) initiative during the last three years.

Further, the Government has supported two editions of the Khelo India Youth Games, three editions of the Khelo India University Games and one edition of the Khelo India Tribal Games under Khelo India Games events, with football included as a sporting discipline, to promote and develop football in the country.

Further, AIFF, which is primarily responsible for development and promotion of football in the country, is supported under ANSF scheme towards conduct of national championships, hosting of international events, training and competitive exposure of athletes, engagement of foreign coaches and support personnel etc. The scheme ensures robust grassroots development, professional coaching, scientific support to athletes, and increased exposure through support to NSFs. It has been provisioned that at least 20% of their annual budget is earmarked for grassroots development through their affiliated units. Further, Under the Khelo India Scheme, a series of national level competitions are organised to identify sports talent at grassroots level. These competitions include the Khelo India Youth Games, Khelo India University Games, Khelo India Para Games and Khelo India Winter Games.

AIFF has informed that AIFF in collaboration with the Ministry of Education has distributed 9.26 lakh footballs amongst 1.53 lakh schools under the FIFA Football for Schools initiative to promote and development of football across the country through Navodaya Vidyalaya.
