

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS & SPORTS
DEPARTMENT OF SPORTS
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-1437
ANSWERED ON- 30/07/2026

ASMITA LEAGUE FOR PROMOTING WOMEN'S PARTICIPATION IN SPORTS

1437. SHRI VINOD SHRIDHAR TAWDE:

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

- (a) the current status of the ASMITA League programme, including sports disciplines covered, leagues conducted, women athletes enrolled and its geographical outreach;
- (b) whether the programme has been integrated with Khelo India for talent identification and athlete development;
- (c) the measures taken to enhance participation of girls and women from rural, tribal, aspirational districts and other underserved regions in Maharashtra and Bihar; and
- (d) whether Government proposes to expand the programme through additional sports disciplines, institutional partnerships and competitive opportunities for women athletes?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS & SPORTS

(DR. MANSUKH MANDAVIYA)

- (a) The ASMITA League Programme has emerged as a major initiative for promoting participation of women in sports. So far, over 6,01,965 women athletes have been enrolled through 3,670 leagues conducted across 38 sports disciplines in 700 cities across the country.
- (b) The ASMITA League Programme has been integrated with the Khelo India Talent Identification and Development (KITD) mechanism. Under this mechanism, athletes participating in ASMITA Leagues are scouted and assessed by the Talent Identification & Development Committee (TIDC) for identification and enrolment under the Khelo India Scheme.
- (c) 'Sports' being a State subject, the responsibility of development of sports, taking measures to enhance participation of girls and women from rural, tribal, aspirational districts and other underserved regions, rests primarily with the respective State/Union Territory Governments. The Union Government only supplements their efforts by bridging critical gaps. The Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports implements the following schemes for development of sports in the country, including in the States of Maharashtra and Bihar:
 - (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).

Details of the above schemes are available in the public domain on the websites of this Ministry and the Sports Authority of India.

In addition, to enhance the participation of girls and women from rural, tribal, aspirational districts and other underserved regions, this Ministry has notified Khelo India Centres (KICs) in identified tribal and underserved districts of Maharashtra and Bihar, and has run the ASMITA League programme with a focused outreach to these areas.

In Maharashtra, KICs have been set up in tribal districts such as Dhule, Gadchiroli, Nandurbar, Nashik and Palghar, training a combined 110 female athletes across these centres; in Bihar, KICs in Aurangabad, Gaya, Jamui, Muzaffarpur and Nawada are training 64 female athletes from underserved regions. Under the Khelo India Athletes (KIA) component, each selected athlete receives financial assistance of about ₹6.28 lakh per annum, including an out-of-pocket allowance of ₹10,000 per month; Maharashtra currently has 166 female KIA athletes and Bihar has 8. Complementing this, the ASMITA League Programme has conducted 102 leagues in Maharashtra with 19,629 women participants from tribal and underserved regions, and 84 leagues in Bihar with 15,165 women participants covering several rural and aspirational districts, thereby expanding grassroots access and talent identification among girls and women from these regions.

(d) This Ministry works in close coordination with various National Sports Federations (NSFs) and State/UT Governments for conducting ASMITA Leagues in new sports disciplines, thereby providing additional competitive opportunities and expanding the participation of women athletes.
