

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS & SPORTS
DEPARTMENT OF SPORTS
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-634
ANSWERED ON-23/07/2026

PROMOTION OF TRADITIONAL WRESTLING IN PURI

634. SHRI SUBHASISH KHUNTIA

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

- (a) the number of traditional wrestling arenas (Jaga Akhadas) in Puri receiving Central assistance during the last five years;
- (b) the details of funds released for sports infrastructure, modern equipments, coaching and training for such Akhadas;
- (c) whether there is any proposal for establishing a traditional wrestling or martial arts academy in Puri and if so, the status thereof; and
- (d) the measures proposed to preserve and promote traditional wrestling through talent identification, coaching and competitions and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS & SPORTS

(DR. MANSUKH MANDAVIYA)

(a) to (d) 'Sports' being a State subject, the responsibility for development of sports, including establishment of traditional wrestling or martial arts academy and taking measures to preserve and promote traditional wrestling through talent identification, coaching and competitions, rests primarily with the respective State/Union Territory Governments. The Union Government supplements these efforts by bridging critical gaps. Sports Authority of India (SAI), an autonomous body under the aegis of this Ministry, promotes and supports Wrestling through its Sports Promotional Schemes. Under the National Centres of Excellence (NCOEs) and SAI Training Centres (STCs) schemes, athletes are provided coaching, sports science and medical support, boarding and lodging, competition exposure, education support, sports equipment and other entitlements in accordance with the approved Scheme norms. Further, under the National Sports Talent Contest (NSTC) Scheme, SAI adopts Traditional Akharas for the promotion and developments of wrestling are adopted provided, Akharas fulfils the prescribed norms for adoption. The adopted Akharas are provided with the services of SAI coaches for training of athletes, sports kit, competition exposure, insurance etc. for systematic training and development of wrestlers. At present, no Akharas in Puri, Odisha, have been adopted by the Sports Authority of India (SAI) under the Adopted Akharas component of the National Sports Talent Contest (NSTC) Scheme during the last five years. Further, there is no proposal under consideration in this Ministry for establishing a traditional wrestling or martial arts academy in Puri.
