

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS
(DEPARTMENT OF SPORTS)**

LOK SABHA

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.3498
TO BE ANSWERED ON 23/3/2017**

Financial Assistance to Sportspersons

+3498. SHRI KUNWAR PUSHPENDRA SINGH CHANDEL:

SHRI DEVJI M. PATEL:

SHRI GOPAL SHETTY:

SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI

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

- (a) the details of schemes under which financial assistance for promotion of various sports is provided by the Government;**
- (b) whether the Government provides cash incentives to sportspersons under various sports disciplines to encourage their participation and if so, the details thereof;**
- (c) whether the Government has any provisions of providing sports equipments to the sportspersons and if so, the details thereof;**
- (d) whether the Government has taken note of alleged irregularities in the utilization of financial assistance released by the Government for the sportspersons during the last three years and the current year;**
- (e) if so, the action taken by the Government against those held responsible for such irregularities; and**

- (f) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to prevent recurrence of such irregularities in future?**

ANSWER

**THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR YOUTH
AFFAIRS AND SPORTS
(SHRI VIJAY GOEL)**

(a) to (c) Madam, 'Sports' is a State subject. Promotion & development of various sports disciplines is the primary responsibility of the State Government/ National Sports Federations (NSFs). The Government supplements the efforts of the State Governments/ NSFs by providing financial assistance under the following schemes:-

- 1. Assistance to National Sports Federations (NSFs):- Under the Scheme grants are provided to the recognized NSFs for organizing National/International tournaments in India, participation of National team/athletes in the international competitions abroad, coaching/training of national team/athletes in India and abroad, engagement of foreign coaches, equipment support etc.**

To promote sports in the country, Sports Authority of India (SAI) is also implementing the following sports promotion schemes to identify talented sports persons in the age groups at national and international competitions:

- National Sports Talent Contest Scheme (NSTC)**
- Army Boys Sports company (ABSC)**
- SAI Training Center (STC)**
- Special Area Games (SAG)**
- Extension Centers of STC/SAG**
- Center of Excellence (COE)**
- National Sports Academy (NSA)**

Accordingly, SAI has established 10 Regional Centers and 02 educational institutions to implement the above sports promotions schemes in the country through 273 SAI sports centers.

2. Scheme of National Sports Development Fund(NSDF):- Identified probable athletes and selected elite athletes are provided financial assistance under the Target Olympic Podium (TOP) Scheme under the National Sports Development Fund with the objective of identifying and supporting potential medal prospects for Olympic games.

3. Khelo India – National Programme for Development of Sports:- The Government has launched a new Central Sector Scheme namely ‘Khelo India – National Programme for Development of Sports’ to spot talent through countrywide competitions, to train and groom the talent and to provide sporting infrastructure for honing the sporting skills for implementation from the financial year 2016-17 onwards. This Scheme provides for holding of sports competitions in two age groups of (i) under 14 and (ii) under 17 all over India to encourage mass participation of both boys and girls in Sports in both urban and rural areas, sports talent identification and creation of sports infrastructure facilities, namely, Synthetic Athletic Track, Synthetic Hockey field, Synthetic Turf Football Ground, Multipurpose hall, Swimming pool and construction of stadia complex.

4. Scheme of Incentives to Sports Persons:-

Under the scheme of special awards to medal winners in international sports events and their coaches, cash awards are given to sportspersons and coaches. Besides, Government also confers the following awards with award money on distinguished players & coaches. :-

<u>Name of Award</u>	<u>Award money</u>
1. Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award	Rs. 7.5 Lakh
2. Arjuna Award	RS. 5.0 Lakh
3. Dhyanchand Awards	RS. 5.0 Lakh
4. Dronacharya Award	RS. 5.0 Lakh

5. National Welfare Fund for sportspersons:-

Under the scheme financial assistance is provided to outstanding sportspersons of yesteryears, living in indigent circumstances who

had brought glory to the country in sports. Lump sum ex-gratia assistance is given to the sportspersons or their families for medical treatment etc.

6. Scheme of Sports Fund for Pension to Meritorious Sportspersons:-

Under this scheme, those sportspersons who are Indian citizens and have won gold, silver and bronze medals in Olympic Games, World Cup/world championships Asian Games, Commonwealth Games and Paralympic Games and have retired from active sports career are eligible for life pension.

(d) to (f) No such incident has been reported. In order to ensure proper utilization of Government grants released to NSFs, the Ministry insists on submission of utilization certificates and audited accounts. Balance grant and future grants for an event is released only after settlement of accounts for the previous grant. Moreover, the accounts of NSFs are to be audited by the Chartered Accountants in the Panel of Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG). Also, the accounts of the NSFs receiving Government grant exceeding Rs 1.00 crore are subject to audit from the CAG.
