

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

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1459  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 26.07.2018**

**Sports Centres for Differently-abled Persons**

**1459. SHRI DUSHYANT CHAUTALA:**

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

**(a) whether the Government proposes to set up a state-of-the-art national sports centre in the country for differently-abled persons to enable them to effectively compete in Paralympics, Deaflympics, Special Olympics and various other international sports and if so, the details thereof;**

**(b) whether the Government proposes to identify differently-abled persons for training to enable them to participate in such international events through these centres;**

**(c) if so, the details thereof; and**

**(d) the steps taken/being taken by the Government in this regard?**

**ANSWER  
THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE)  
FOR YOUTH AFFAIRS & SPORTS  
{COL. RAJYAVARDHAN RATHORE (RETD.)}**

**(a) To promote sports among the Paralympic sportspersons, Sports Authority of India (SAI) has established a Para Centre under its SAI Training Centre Scheme at SAI Netaji Subhas Western Centre (NSWC), Gandhinagar in 2016-2017. The SAI NSWC Gandhinagar has been declared as a Centre for Excellence for Para Athletes and accordingly the sports infrastructure available at the NSWC, Gandhinagar has been**

**upgraded and made disabled friendly for regular training of Para Athletes.**

**(b) to (d) During 2017-18, SAI had identified 13 prospective para athletes in the disciplines of Athletics, Swimming & Power Lifting who were provided with regular sports training to excel in the national & international competitions.**

**In preparation for participation in various international competitions in different sports disciplines, coaching camps are mainly organized at SAI Netaji Subhas Western Centre, Gandhinagar, SAI Ch. Devi Lal Northern Regional Centre, Sonapat and SAI Netaji Subhas Southern Centre, Bangalore. Furthermore, all the SAI Stadiums and training centres have been made disabled-friendly and up-gradation of the same is carried out from time to time to ensure comfort of differently-abled athletes.**

**Further, differently-abled elite athletes are provided with all requisite infrastructure and facilities for their training and participation in international events. NSWC, Gandhinagar of SAI has been identified as the main centre for holding the sports activities pertaining to differently-abled athletes and the Centre is well equipped and differently-abled friendly.**

**In addition, the Ministry under its Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS) have identified athletes from various disciplines, who have the potential of winning an Olympics/Paralympics medal. These athletes, other than being provided an out of pocket allowance (OPA) of Rs.50,000/- per month, are being funded for additional expenses at international events, coaching, equipment and support staff. The athletes under the Scheme are periodically being reviewed for their performance and to assess requirement for customized support. Currently, 26 para-athletes are under the TOP Scheme.**

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