

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1119
TO BE ANSWERED ON 13.12.2022**

Sports as Career Option

1119. SHRI UPENDRA SINGH RAWAT:

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

(a) whether the Government has any proposal to encourage the younger generations to take sports as a career option; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken and achievements made so far, in this regard?

**ANSWER
THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS
(SHRI ANURAG SINGH THAKUR)**

(a) & (b) Sports, being a State Subject, the responsibility for promotion and development of sports, including increased participation of youth in sports and provide requisite sports facilities, rests primarily with State/UT Government. The Central Government supplements the efforts of the State/UT Governments. The recruitment of meritorious sportspersons under sports quota is done as per the guidelines issued by the Department of Personnel & Training from time to time which are applicable to the Central Government Ministries / Departments / organisations.

In the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports, to encourage the younger generation to take sports as a career option, the Sports Authority

of India (SAI) provides support to sports persons (active/retired) by recruiting them in the coaching cadre, which is a separate cadre for coaches. All the coaches recruited in SAI are thus sportspersons. Out of the total 2498 sanctioned posts in SAI, 1524 are sportspersons by virtue of their engagement as coaches. Out of these, 5% (23 posts) are reserved for Olympians, and 1% (5 posts) for Paralympians at the entry Grade, i.e., Level-6 of the 7th Central Pay Commission; 3% (12 posts) are reserved for Medal Winning Olympians or those who have represented in 02 Olympic Games; and 2% (8 posts) are for medal winning Paralympians in the grade of Coach (Level-10).

Further, the Government has launched the Khelo India Scheme with the twin objectives of mass participation and promotion of excellence in sports. Various programmes have been launched under this Scheme to promote sports and improve the level of sports and infrastructural facilities, including stadiums, playing fields, tracks and sports training in the country to encourage the younger generations to take sports as a career option.

Under the "Khelo India Centres (KIC) and Sports Academies" vertical of the Khelo India Scheme, past Champion Athletes are hired as coaches at the district-level Khelo India Centres (KICs) across the country. They are paid a remuneration of Rs. 3 lakh per annum. As of now, 358 Past Champion Athletes have been engaged in the various KICs.

Also, the scheme of Special Awards to Winners in International Sports Events and their Coaches aims to encourage and motivate/incentivize outstanding sportspersons for higher achievements and to attract the younger generation to take up sports as a career. Under this scheme, sportspersons are given an amount ranging from a minimum of Rs. 1 lakh to a maximum of Rs. 75 lakh.
