

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

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. †1135  
ANSWERED ON 13.12.2022**

**Traditional Sports of Tribal Communities**

**†1135. SHRI GYANESHWAR PATIL:**

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

**(a) the details of the steps taken by the Government for the sustainable development of traditional sports of tribal communities and providing the best facilities and support to the youth;**

**(b) the future plan of the Government to identify the talent of school children and provide them adequate opportunities and training so as to ensure this collateral participation in international competitions; and**

**(c) the steps taken by the Government to utilize the vast experience of experienced athletes who performed outstandingly in international tournaments?**

**ANSWER  
THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS & SPORTS  
{ SHRI ANURAG SINGH THAKUR }**

**(a) 'Sports' being a State subject, the responsibility of development of traditional sports of tribal communities and providing best facilities and support to the youth rests primarily with the respective State/Union Territory Governments. The Union Government supplements their efforts. One of the sub-component of the Khelo India Scheme, "Promotion of rural and indigenous/tribal games", is specifically dedicated to the development of traditional sports in the country. The indigenous/traditional sports disciplines of Mallakhamb, Kalaripayattu, Gatka, Thang-Ta, Yogasana and Silambam have been identified for promotion by this Ministry under the Khelo India Scheme.**

**(b) The Sports Authority of India (SAI) has 90 Extension Centres most of which are operational in schools across the country. Almost all the athletes under the SAI Sports Promotional Schemes are school/college-going students who are encouraged to participate in the school/university competitions. They are also supported by SAI in their educational expenses as per the norms of the relevant scheme. This Ministry has adopted 09 schools and 28 Army Boys Sports Companies under the Khelo India Scheme and 10 schools are covered under the National Sports Talent Contest Scheme of SAI. Further, under the**

**Khelo India Scheme, this Ministry has taken a number of initiatives to cater to young talents in the country, such as conducting of Khelo India School/Youth Games, identification and training of young talents as Khelo India Athletes, assessment of fitness of school-going children, etc.**

**(c) In order to utilise the potential experience of the experienced athletes, SAI recruits the sportspersons as coaches. 5% posts are reserved for Olympians and 1% posts for Paralympians at the entry grade as Assistant Coach. 3% posts are reserved for Medal Winning Olympians or, for those athletes who have represented in 02 Olympic Games and 2% posts are reserved for medal winning Paralympians in the grade of Coach.**

**Also, the Recruitment Rules for appointment of coaches in SAI have been amended to facilitate the appointment of former sportspersons on contract and deputation basis.**

**Further, as a part of the vision of the government to strengthen the sports ecosystem in the country at the grassroots level, a low-cost, effective sports training mechanism has been developed with past “Champion Athletes” as Coaches and Mentors for the trainees at the Khelo India Centres which would also ensure a sustained source of income for them.**

**\*\*\*\***