

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4494
ANSWERED ON 28.03.2023**

Sports Activities under Khelo India Scheme

4494. SHRI SUNIL BABURAO MENDHE:

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

- (a) the details of the Schemes of the Government in the State of Maharashtra to encourage rural sports activities under the “Khelo India” programme being run in the country;**
- (b) whether the Government is emphasizing on developing special facilities to encourage meritorious children/youth from rural areas of the country so that they also get an opportunity to participate in national/international tournaments and represent the country; and**
- (c) if so, the details thereof State and district-wise including Maharashtra and if not, the reasons therefor?**

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

(a) The ‘Khelo India – National Programme for Development of Sports’ of this Ministry aims at strengthening the entire sports ecosystem to promote the twin objectives of mass participation and promotion of excellence in sports across the country. It focuses on broad-basing of sports among the youth and promotion of sports activities throughout the country, including rural areas. One of the sub-components of this Scheme, “Promotion of rural and indigenous/tribal games” is specifically dedicated to promote rural sports activities.

(b) and (c) Sports’ being a State subject, the responsibility to develop special facilities to encourage meritorious children and youth in rural areas rests primarily with the respective State/Union Territory Governments. The Union Government supplements their efforts.

Under Khelo India Scheme, various initiatives have been undertaken with an aim to identification of talented athletes across country and nurturing them through training and exposure at par with the International standards in various facilities of Sports Authority of India and Khelo India Accredited academies. These athletes participate in Khelo India Youth and University Games where benchmark of technical conduct is of International standards. Further, these athletes compete with National/International athletes at various forum which enhances their capabilities and strengthen the bench strength of the country for future National/International events.
