

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No.3016
TO BE ANSWERED ON 08.08.2023**

Women Footballers

3016. SHRI S. JAGATHRAKSHAKAN:

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

(a) whether the Government has taken cognizance of the fact that there is only a handful of full-time professional women footballers; and

(b) if so, the details of the initiatives that are proposed to be taken by the Government to identify the problems being faced by women footballers in the country keeping in mind that there is need to focus on improving grassroots systems, increasing the frequency of matches, domestically and internationally, and providing our team with much-needed experience and exposure?

ANSWER

**THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS
[SHRI ANURAG SINGH THAKUR]**

(a): Promotion of specific sports discipline is the responsibility of the concerned National Sports Federation (NSF). The Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports has recognised the All India Football Federation (AIFF) for promotion and development of football in the country. The AIFF has informed that the total number of female football professional players at present is 337.

(b): Under the Scheme of Assistance to NSFs, the AIFF is being provided with financial assistance towards training of athletes, irrespective of their gender, which includes all requisite facilities for their preparations including wholesome nutritious diet, food

supplements, equipment support, state-of-the-art infrastructure, lodging, travelling facilities, services of reputed Indian and Foreign Coaches/ supporting staff, scientific & medical support, sports kit, etc. besides financial assistance for their training abroad and conduct of national championships in Sub Junior, Junior and Senior Categories, conduct of international tournaments in India, participation in international competitions in India and abroad. For the said purpose, an ACTC (Annual Calendar for Training and Competition) budget is approved for each NSF, including the AIFF, every year.

The Ministry has also provided financial assistance to the AIFF for conduct of the FIFA Under-17 Women's World Cup 2022 in India.
