

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

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 637  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 06.02.2024**

**Participation of Women in Sports**

**637. SHRI MOHAMMED FAIZAL P.P:  
SHRI BENNY BEHANAN:**

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

- (a) the details of measures taken by the Government to ensure the active participation of women in sports management and administration, considering more than eight National Sporting Federations (NSF) have no women representatives;**
- (b) the manner in which the Government plan to combat the cultural and social issues that limit women's participation in sports; and**
- (c) the details of measures taken by the Government to increase recreational sports and fitness for girls, considering more than 76 per cent of adolescent girls do not engage in physical activity?**

**ANSWER**

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

**(a) to (c): Sports being a State subject, the responsibility of development of sports, including promotion of women athletes in the country, rests primarily with the State/Union Territory Governments, and the Central Government only supplements their efforts. However, this Ministry is running various sports promotional schemes, across the country, which are gender neutral and promote equal participation for both men and women sportspersons. These schemes include: (i) Khelo**

**India- National Programme for Development of Sports; (ii) Assistance to National Sports Federations (NSFs); (iii) Special Awards to Winners in International Sports Events and their Coaches; (iv) National Sports Awards; (v) Pension to Meritorious Sportspersons; (vi) Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay National Sports Welfare Scheme; (vii) National Sports Development Fund; and (viii) Running Sports Training Centres through Sports Authority of India (SAI). Details of these schemes are available in the public domain on the website of the Ministry.**

**A total of 8639 athletes, including 3375 women, are being trained in 34 sports disciplines under various sports promotional schemes of SAI. The selected athletes are provided support in the form of expert coaches including women coaches, sports equipment, boarding and lodging etc.**

**Further, under the Khelo India scheme, there is a dedicated sub-component of “Sports for women” wherein emphasis is laid on such sports disciplines where there is less participation of women. Under this initiative, various Khelo India Women’s League – are being conducted. Till now, women leagues have been organised in 19 sports disciplines across the country. 479 competitions have been organized for Women athletes with 52,086 participants. This initiative has significantly increased women participation in sports across the nation and has provided ample opportunities to women athletes to compete, learn and grow in all age groups. A portal named ASMITA (Achieving Sports Milestone by Inspiring Women through Action) was also launched for Women’s League on 22 August 2023. Further, the ASMITA logo has also been integrated with Khelo India Women’s League with the tagline “Khel se hi pehchan”, thereby giving identity to women athletes through sports. Also, the talented athletes under the Khelo India scheme are selected / identified based on the performance during the Khelo India Games, National Championship, Open Selection Trial conducted by the concerned National Sports Federations and School Games Federation of India. As of now, a total of 1341 women athletes have been identified under the Khelo India scheme in various sports disciplines.**

**As a special initiative for encouraging women in sports, the Khelo India “Duska Dum” Sports competition was also launched on the occasion of International Women’s Day in March 2023. Over 1500 events**

**were conducted with participation of more than one lakh women athletes in various parts of the country.**

**In addition, under the Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS) of this Ministry, support is provided to promising sportspersons irrespective of gender, in terms of modern sports sciences, foreign exposure under experts of respective sports disciplines and participation in international events / competitions recognized by the Indian Olympic Committee (IOC). Out-of-pocket allowance of @ Rs.25,000/- per month is given for athletes under TOPS Developmental Group and @ Rs.50,000/- per month for athletes under TOPS Core Group. Currently, a total of 104 elite women athletes in various sports disciplines are covered under TOPS.**

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