

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. †4907
TO BE ANSWERED ON 25.03.2021**

Encouragement to Talented Players

**†4907. SHRI CHUNNI LAL SAHU:
SHRI MOHAN MANDAVI:**

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

(a) whether special drive is being run by the Government to encourage the talented players;

(b) if so, the number of players encouraged during the last three years and the current year along with the manner in which they have been encouraged;

(c) the process involved in the selection of talented players in the States and national level sports competition;

(d) whether any negligence committed by the sports boards in the selection process has come to the notice of the Government; and

(e) if so, the corrective steps taken by the Government in this regard?

**ANSWER
THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE)
FOR YOUTH AFFAIRS & SPORTS
{ SHRI KIREN RIJIJU }**

(a) and (b) The Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports through Sports Authority of India (SAI) is implementing the following sports promotional schemes across the country to identify talented sports persons and nurture them to excel at national and international competitions:-

- **National Centres of Excellence (NCOE)**
- **SAI Training Centre (STC)**
- **Extension Centre of STC**
- **National Sports Talent Contest (NSTC)**

Presently, 9225 talented athletes (5681 boys and 3544 girls) are being trained in 27 sports disciplines on residential and non-residential basis.

This Ministry is also implementing several other schemes for preparations of athletes for Olympics, Paralympic Games, Asian Games and Commonwealth Games as mentioned below:-

Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS): It is a flagship athlete-centric programme wherein assistance is provided to India's top athletes in their preparations for the Olympics and Paralympics.

Scheme of Assistance to NSFs: Government provides assistance to elite sportspersons preparing for major international events such as Olympic Games, Asian Games, Commonwealth Games etc. by providing funding support through its scheme of Scheme of Assistance to National Sports Federations (NSFs), also known as Annual Calendar for Training and Competition (ACTC). As part of this scheme, NSFs are provided funding for organizing training camps which includes training, accommodation and dietary costs as well.

Khelo India Scheme: The Khelo India Scheme continues to support young athletes towards broad basing support for Indian sports. The mission is to encourage sports all over the country thus allowing the population to harness the power of sports through its cross-cutting influence, namely, holistic development of children & youth, community development, social integration, gender equality, healthy lifestyle, national pride and economic opportunities related to sports development. Athletes are selected from all over India covering tribal, rural and backward areas of the country. 2969 athletes in 24 sports disciplines (including Para sports) have been notified after being finally selected from various national championships, open selection trials, and assessment camps from Khelo India Games.

(c) The process of selection of talented players in the States /National level sports competitions as per approved selection criteria of the SAI sports promotional schemes and Khelo India Scheme is at Annexure.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (c) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. †4907 TO BE ANSWERED ON 25.03.2021 REGARDING “ENCOURAGEMENT TO TALENTED PLAYERS” ASKED BY SHRI CHUNNI LAL SAHU AND SHRI MOHAN MANDAVI, HON’BLE MEMBERS OF LOK SABHA

PROCESS OF SELECTION OF TALENTED PLAYERS IN THE STATES /NATIONAL LEVEL SPORTS COMPETITIONS AS PER APPROVED SELECTION CRITERIA OF THE SAI SPORTS PROMOTIONAL SCHEMES AND KHELO INDIA SCHEME

A. SAI Sports Promotional Schemes

I. National Centres of Excellence (NCOE)

Admission Criteria: Talent Identification and Development Committees of all the discipline are empowered to select/ weed out athletes from NCOEs.

II. SAI Training Centres (STCs)

Selection Criteria

Criteria for Induction: Age: 12 to 18 years.

(a) Individual Events: Upto eighth (08) place in Sub-Junior (including Cadet) and Junior National Championships organized by a recognized National Sports Federation and upto sixth (06) place in Inter-University Championships conducted by Association of Indian Universities, and School Games Federation of India during the current or the year preceding admission.

OR

Sports persons who obtain first three (03) places in the State Championship Conducted by the recognized State Sports Association.

OR

Sports persons who secure any of the first three (03) positions in the North East Games and PYKKA National Rural and Women Championships.

OR

Sports person who has represented India in any recognized Championship/ Tournament by the recognized international federation concerned.

OR

The first three (03) position-holders of District Championships, Inter-Education District Level small Competition, Championships held by Confederation of Public Schools, CBSE, Kendriya Vidyalaya, Navodaya Vidyalaya, PYKKA, etc.; may be considered for participation in the selection trials.

b) Team Events:

(i) Age: 10 to 18 years.

The talent who could not reach the minimum level of motor quality as per battery of tests may be provisionally selected for six months and only after passing the motor quality tests and specific skill test subsequently, formal induction may be made, if found fit.

Training diary of each individual trainee must be maintained, which will be taken into consideration at the time of retention and weeding out process.

Performance criteria for induction:

Any member of a team which has obtained first four (4) positions in Sub-Junior and Junior National Championships organized by recognized National Sports Federation and first two (02) position holder in Inter-Zonal and Inter-University Championships conducted by Association of Indian Universities and School Games Federation of India.

OR

Member of a team which obtained first (01) or second (02) position in the State Championship organized by a recognized State Sports Association.

OR

Sports person who has represented India as a member of the Sub-Junior and Junior team in any recognized Championship/Tournament for which team was officially sent by the Govt. of India.

OR

Member of Winner and Runners-up in team games in the North East Games.

OR

Sports persons who have participated in the recognized State level competitions organized by State Sports Associations, State Sports Council, and State Sports Departments may be considered for participation in the selection trials.

Pre-condition for Admission: The admission in the above two categories may be made based on the performance indicators, Anthropometric measurement, Physiological & Psychological tests and depending on age, discipline, event and evaluation of future potential by appearing in the selection Tests. There will be no direct admission. The admission will be only on the basis of performance and battery of test result and are to be documented at the time of induction.

Lateral Entry: Those who achieved the desired performance in the District, State, National and International level competitions and successfully completed the battery of tests, technical and specific skill tests may be inducted at any time of the year.

Retention Criteria: Retention of the athlete is based on his/her maintaining the minimum level of performance on the basis of which he/she was admitted and also achieving the target set for the year.

Battery of test result, specific test result and performance appraisal record considered at the time of admission should be properly documented as base performance so as to compare the performance enhancement of the trainees periodically.

Training diary of each individual trainee is maintained, which is taken into consideration at the time of retention and weeding out.

Medical Check-up, and Age Verification is essential especially when admission is done on the basis of performance in the Sub-Junior and Junior level Competitions as an effective preventive measure against age fraud.

Weeding out:

- a) Not maintaining the expected level of performances.**
- b) Injury in capacitating for more than six months from training and or competition; and**
- c) Dope abuse, age fraud, misconduct etc.**

Monitoring, Half Yearly Scientific Assessment & Academic backup for trainees admitted:

- a) Close monitoring and half yearly scientific assessment of all trainees admitted is done by the Institutional/Regional Heads by engaging the services of in-house sports science facilities or through renowned Sports Science Institutions.**
- b) As far as possible, efforts are made admission in nearby schools;**
- c) Induction of talent may be a continuous process instead of linking with Academic session so as to enable SAI to admit the talent whenever a talent is spotted and found eligible for admission**

Relaxation in the retention of trainees beyond the age of 18 years of age and up to 21 years can be considered by the Head of Academic Institutions/Regions in special cases only where there is strong justification based on performance and future prospects.

III. Extension Centres of STCs

Selection of Trainees:

Up to 20 trainees in a School/College are adopted under the Scheme. The students of nearby schools/colleges can also be admitted. The selection of athletes is done by a duly constituted Committee consisting of (1) Regional Director (SAI) or his representative (2) The Head of the College/Institute or his representative (3) Experts/Coaches from the school/college of the concerned discipline (4) Outstanding sports persons of the area. Age is relaxed in cases of commendable results / exceptional talent.

These Extension Centres are attached to nearest STC and monitored by Heads of SAI Regional Centres under whom the respective School/College falls.

Selection Criteria

Schools:

- (a) Individual Events: Any of first four positions holders of District Championships, Inter-Educational Institutions District Level Competitions held by the Confederation of Public Schools, CBSE, KVs, JNVs.**
- (b) Team Games: Winner or Runners-up of District Championships, Inter-Educational Institutions District Level Competitions held by the Confederation of Public Schools, CBSE, KVs, JNVs and PYKKA and qualify under Battery of Tests as per the norms.**

Colleges:

(a) Individual: Upto 4th place/ position holders in the Sub-Junior and Junior State Championships organized by recognized State Sports Associations, Inter-College Championships conducted by the University and State level SGFI Championships organized as per SGFI norms.

(b) Team Games: Winner or Runners-up of District Championships, Inter-Educational Institutions District Level Competitions held by the Confederation of Public Schools, CBSE, KVS, JNVS and PYKKA and qualify under Battery of Tests as per the norms.

Universities:**Individual & Team:**

Sports persons who have represented University, State in the Zonal / National Championships organized by Association of Indian Universities and by recognized State Association/National Sports Federations.

Age: 10 to 18 years.

The performance of the trainees in the battery of tests and achievements at the time of induction should be clearly documented.

The trainees, who failed in the Battery of tests are provisionally selected and will be evaluated after six months for retention.

Battery of tests result, specific test result and performance appraisal record considered at the time of admission should be properly documented as base performance so as to compare the performance enhancement of the trainees periodically.

Pre-condition for Admission: The admission in the above two categories may be made based on the performance indicators, Anthropometric measurement, Physiological & Psychological tests and depending on age, discipline, event and evaluation of future potential and battery of test results and are to be documented at the time of induction.

Lateral Entry: Those who achieved the desired performance in the District, State, National and International level competitions and successfully completed the battery of tests, technical and specific skill tests may be inducted at any time of the year.

Retention Criteria: Retention of the inmate will be based on his/her maintaining the minimum level of performance on the basis of which the inmate was admitted and also achieving the target set for the year.

Weeding out:

- a) Not maintaining the expected level of performance**
- b) Dope abuse, age fraud, misconduct.**

Monitoring, Half Yearly Scientific Assessment & Academic back up for trainees admitted:

- a) It is recommended that close monitoring and half early scientific assessment of all trainees admitted may be done by Institutional/Regional Heads by engaging the services of in-house sports science facilities or by engaging the services of renowned Sports Science Institutions.**
- b) As far as possible, efforts must be made to set up National Open Schooling System under NIOS, Ministry of HRD and Indira Gandhi Open University to do away with the regular academic pressure on the talent admitted.**
- c) Induction of talent may be a continuous process instead of linking with Academic session so as to enable SAI to admit the talent whenever a talent is spotted and found eligible for admission.**
- d) Concerted efforts may be under-taken with various Public Sectors/Armed Forces/Corporate to ensure social/job security of the inducted inmates.**

Relaxation: However relaxation both for lower and upper age limit as well as induction can be granted in exceptional cases based on outstanding performance in Battery of Tests and also taking into account specific nature of sports limited to 25% of the new induction.

IV. National Talent Contest Schemes (NSTC)

Selection Criterion

Regular Schools (NSTC)

Age: 8 to 14 years.

The performance of the trainees in the battery of tests and achievements at the time of induction should be clearly documented.

Individual/Team Events:

- a. Trainees, who are medal winners in State/National Level Competitions are admitted into the scheme, subject to their being found medically fit.**
- b. Trainees who are medal winners at District Level Competition or have participation in State Level Competitions are admitted subject to their being found fit medically and physically and also have the required potential which is assessed by battery of tests.**
- c. For selection from the remote, tribal & coastal areas, the trainees are also selected by organizing competitions among participants. Selection is done by a selection committee consisting of representatives of SAI, School/ Akharas, SAI coaches, sports scientists etc. The sports persons identified on this basis are offered admission after age verification, medical examination and on found suitable by applying battery of tests.**

Pre-condition for Admission:

The admission in the above two categories may be made based on the performance indicators, Anthropometric measurement, Physiological & Psychological tests and

depending on age, discipline, event and evaluation of future potential and battery of test result and are to be documented at the time of induction.

Retention Criteria:

Retention of the athletes will be based on his/her maintaining the minimum level of performance on the basis of which the inmate was admitted and also achieving the target set for the year.

Weeding out:

- a) Not maintaining the expected level of performance**
- b) Dope abuse, age fraud, misconduct.**

Monitoring, Half Yearly Scientific Assessment & Academic back up for trainees admitted:

It is recommended that close monitoring and half yearly scientific assessment of all trainees admitted may be done by Institutional/Regional Heads by engaging the services of in-house sports science facilities or by engaging the services of renowned Sports Science Institutions.

Relaxation: However, relaxation both for lower and upper age limit as well as induction can be granted in exceptional cases based on outstanding performance in Battery of Tests and also taking into account specific nature of sports, for which prior approval of DG, SAI would be needed.

Indigenous Games and Martial Arts (IGMA) (Sub-Scheme of NSTC)

With a view to promote indigenous games & martial arts in the schools in rural and semi-urban areas and scouting of talent in these games for nurturing in modern sports this scheme was launched in November, 2001 schools runs by Educational Institutions having cluster of Schools like Kendriya Vidyalayas, Navodaya Vidyalayas, DAV, Vidya Bharati & similarly placed institutions for promotion & development of indigenous games & martial arts were also included as part of NSTC Scheme.

Selection Criteria

Age: 8 to14 years.

The performance of the trainees in the battery of tests and achievements at the time of induction should be clearly documented.

Selection Criteria for Induction:

- a. Talents, who are medal winners in State/National Level Competitions are admitted into the scheme, subject, to their being found medically fit.**
- b. Talents who are medal winners at District Level Competition or have participation in State Level Competitions are admitted subject to their being found fit medically and physically.**

c. **The scouting of the talent in indigenous games is to be done on the basis of open competitions among participants. Selection is done by a selection committee consisting of representatives of SAI, Institutions, SAI coaches, guru/mentor of the concerned game. The sports persons identified on this basis are offered admission after age verification, medical examination etc.**

Retention Criteria:

a) **Retention of the inmate will be based on his/her maintaining the minimum level of performance on the basis of which the inmate was admitted and also achieving the target set for the year.**

Weeding out:

- a) **Not maintaining the expected level of performance**
- b) **Dope abuse, age fraud, misconduct.**

Monitoring: Close monitoring and half yearly evaluation of the adopted Clubs/Institutions is carried out through Institutional Heads/ Regional Centres. Exceptionally talented boys & girls may be admitted in the SAI SAG Centre or SAI Sports Academy as per the discipline and eligibility criteria.

Relaxation: However relaxation both for lower and upper age limit as well as induction can be granted by DG SAI in exceptional cases based upon outstanding performance in Battery of Tests and also taking into account specific nature of sports, for which prior approval of DG, SAI would be needed.

Adopted Akharas under NSTC Scheme

Selection Criteria: The selection criterion of NSTC regular adopted schools is applied for selecting talented wrestlers.

B. KHELO INDIA SCHEME

For identification and selection of athletes under Khelo India Scheme, this Ministry has put in place a two-tier structure consisting of Talent Scouting Committee (TSC) and Talent Identification and Development Committee (TIDC) for selection of players.

The players are selected/identified from various streams like Khelo India Games, National Championships conducted by the concerned National Sports Federations, School Games Federation of India, etc. Further, the players shortlisted by the TSC from various competitions of same/varied age groups are called for an assessment camp wherein the TIDC finally selects the talented players, who are then subjected to age verification test. The players who clear the age verification test are finally selected to the Khelo India Scheme with the approval of the High Powered Committee (HPC).

In individual events, usually position holders are inducted into the scheme whereas in team events short-listing is done initially and then the selection takes place during the assessment camp.