

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

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 512  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 04.02.2021**

**Traditional sports in India**

**512. SHRIMATI PRENEET KAUR:**

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes any policy/plan to develop and promote the culture of sports in India, especially in rural areas and if so, the details thereof;**
- (b) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to revive traditional sports in India;**
- (c) whether the Government proposes any policy/plan to hire more Indian coaches; and**
- (d) if so, the manner in which the Government proposes to do so;**
- (e) whether the Government proposes any incentive system/mechanism for the Indian coaches and if so, the details thereof;**
- (f) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to facilitate different sports players forced to train indoors due to the COVID-19 pandemic; and**
- (g) the measures taken/being taken by the Government to boost and revive the sports industry in light of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic?**

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

**(a) The Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports is already running schemes for promotion of sports culture as well as attaining excellence in sports. These schemes include:-**

**(i) Khelo India Scheme (ii) Assistance to National Sports Federations; (iii) Special Awards to Winners in International sports events and their Coaches; (iv) National Sports Awards, Pension to Meritorious Sports Persons; (v) National Sports Development Fund; and (vi) Sports Training Centres run through Sports Authority of India. The Ministry is also promoting rural and indigenous/tribal games under the 'Khelo India Scheme' and through the 'Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat' (EBSB) programme. Most athletes benefitting under these schemes come from rural areas.**

**(b) For traditional sports, the Department of Sports conducted 36 EBSB Championship events at 19 venues across the country through the National Sports Federations in 2019-20. Approximately, 2250 sportspersons participated in these events.**

**Due to Covid-19 pandemic the Department of Sports used the Digital Medium to spread the awareness of Indigenous Games of various States/UTs. The Department made documentaries of 19 indigenous games, namely, Gatka, Roll Ball, Tug of War, Kalaripayattu, Thang-Ta, Kho-Kho, Mallakhamb, Shooting Ball, Sqay, Kabaddi, Gilli Danda (Gujarat), Sikkim Archery, Dhoop Khel & Cowrie Khel (Assam), Paika Akhada & Chhau (Odisha) and Akhada Kushti (Uttar Pradesh), Hekko (Nagaland), Mizoram Games, Silambam (Puducherry) Lagori and Langadi (Goa), and uploaded these documentaries on the Digital Repository of the Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat website, Facebook page of the Fit India Movement, Youtube channel of Fit India Movement and Youtube channel of MyGov India.**

**(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Following actions have been taken in this regard:-**

**i. Notification for appointment for Olympians/Para-Olympians as Coach in Sports Authority of India has already been published. 23 vacancies of Asstt. Coach and 04 vacancies of Coach will be filled from Olympians/Para-Olympians.**

**ii. Recruitment Rules (RRs) of Coaches in SAI have been amended to appoint coaches on Contract/Deputation in SAI.**

**iii. In order to fill the vacancy especially at the higher level, it is decided to engage outstanding sportsperson/coaches working in other organization on deputation.**

**Further, more and more Indian Coaches are engaged in training of athletes in National Coaching Camps, Khelo India Academies and National**

**Centre of Excellence (NCoEs). The coaches so engaged also includes Ex International players. They are appointed by a duly constituted Committee.**

**(e) Yes, Sir. The Governing Body of Sports Authority of India has approved Out of Turn Promotions to sportspersons/coaches for excellence in Sports event at par with DoPT guidelines.**

**(f) The steps taken/being taken by the Government to facilitate different sports players forced to train indoors due to the COVID-19 pandemic are at Annexure.**

**(g) The Ministry has organised discussions with representatives of the sports industry, including CII, ASSOCHAM, FICCI and CSRI regarding the key challenges faced by them and to boost and revive the sports industry in light of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.**

**ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (f) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 512 TO BE ANSWERED ON 04.02.2021 REGARDING “TRADITIONAL SPORTS IN INDIA” ASKED BY SHRIMATI PRENEET KAUR, HON’BLE MEMBER OF LOK SABHA**

**In view of the COVID-19 pandemic, inter-alia, the following measures were taken to ensure a smooth training for the sportspersons including those who have qualified for upcoming 2021 Olympic Games to be held in Tokyo Japan so that their performance is not affected.**

**i. Regular Online/Class conducted for athletes by the coaches to keep them motivated and fit during lock down period. Athletes were provided with online training module for daily practice.**

**ii. Regular interaction with the athletes was done in order to boost their morale and keep them motivated in these tough time. Seminars and workshops by experts in Sports psychology, sports science, nutrition in COVID-19, strength & conditioning high performance sports environment anti-doping have been organized via, video conferencing , social media like Facebook live, Instagram Live etc. to educate athletes about how to cope with stress and depression during tough times and focusing on their objectives so that the training is not hampered.**

**iii. Athletes were provided with necessary sporting equipment to enable them to keep fit, Further, those Olympic bound athletes who could not go back to their places due to lock down were given equipment in their rooms for training in SAI Centres.**

**iv. Due to the spread of Covid-19 all the conventional training programmes being conducted in all SAI centres across the country were stopped and all National and International sports events were postponed/cancelled. Also, Olympics and Paralympics, 2020 for the first time in the history of the modern games, have been postponed, and will be held in 2021. Foreign training of Indian athletes were curtailed.**

**In the view of the COVID-19 pandemic, the following measures were taken to ensure a smooth training for the upcoming 2021 Olympic Games to be held in Tokyo, Japan:**

**Non-Conventional Training Methods:**

**i) Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) were laid down to resume sports activities in the training centres under the name of “Khelo India-Firr Se”.**

**The SOPs covers all stakeholders at the training centres including:**

- **All Athletes**
- **All technical and non-technical support staff**
- **All administrative staff**
- **All hostel and facility management staff**
- **All visitors to the centre**

**A COVID Task Force Committee has been set-up to ensure the guidelines are strictly implemented at the training centre. The committee is responsible for the constant monitoring and management of the health protocols of the government.**

**The SOP categorises the sporting disciplines into non-contact sports, minimal/medium-contact sports, full contact sports and water sports.**

**ii) The athletes were provided with necessary sporting equipment such as (Barbell Rods, weights, Exercise Bicycle etc.), air pellets, target system with the help from SAI Regional Centres, State Governments and NGOs at their homes during the first phases of nationwide lockdown so that they can train within their homes.**

**iii) Regular interaction with the athletes was done in order to boost their morale and keep them motivated in these tough times. Seminars and workshops by experts in sports psychology, sports science/medicine, nutrition in Covid, strength & conditioning, high performance sports environment, anti-doping have been organized for TOPS athletes via, video conferencing, social media like Facebook Live, Insta Live etc.**

**Further, in the view of the COVID-19 pandemic, following various measures were taken to facilitates sportspersons under various Sports Promotional Schemes:-**

**1. Regular Online Training / Class conducted for athletes by the coaches to keep them motivated and fit during lock down period. Athletes were provided with online training module for daily practice.**

**2. Seminars and workshops conducted in sports psychology, sports science/ medicine, nutrition in Covid, strength & conditioning, high performance sports environment, anti-doping.**

**Athletes & Coach Education Programme and Coach Development Programme (ACEP/ CDP) were conducted and lectures were delivered by the Foreign Coaches and Sports Experts in different sports discipline.**

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