

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS & SPORTS
(DEPARTMENT OF SPORTS)
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.602
TO BE ANSWERED ON 04.02.2021**

Rural Sports talent

602. SHRIMATI RAKSHA NIKHIL KHADSE:

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes to strengthen the sports ecosystems to bring in rural sports talent in the mainstream of sports to fulfill the aim to bring India in top 10 by the 2028 Olympics;**
- (b) if so, the steps taken/to be taken on the said proposal; and**
- (c) the details of roadmap and the steps taken/to be taken by the Government towards the target of achievement for the 2028 Olympics?**

**ANSWER
THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE)
FOR YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS
[SHRI KIREN RIJJU]**

(a) & (b): Sports being a State subject, primary responsibility for promotion and development of sports including creation of training infrastructure for Olympic sports in rural areas is that of the respective State /UT Governments. Central Government supplements the efforts of State/UT Governments for bridging the gaps through various schemes of the Ministry e.g. Khelo India, Assistance to National Sports Federations, National Sports Development Fund (NSDF) etc.

The following schemes run by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports (MYAS) provide for training of athletes, including those from rural areas and their participation in competitions across the country: -

- Khelo India**
- Scheme of Assistance to National Sports Federations (NSFs).**

- **National Sports Development Fund (NSDF)**
- **Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS)**
- **Enhancement of sports facilities in Jammu & Kashmir**

Further, Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports through Sports Authority of India (SAI) is implementing the following sports promotional schemes across the country to identify talented sports persons in the age group of 8-25 years 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)**

SAI has established 23 NCOEs and 66 STCs to implement the above sports promotional schemes across the country. A total of 188 Centres including NCOEs, STCs, Extension Centres, etc. are functional for implementation of above sports promotional schemes of SAI. Presently, 9313 talented sports persons (5726 boys and 3587 girls) are being trained in 27 sports disciplines on residential and non-residential basis.

The above Schemes promote all Olympic sports as well as regional and indigenous sports across the country such as Football, Hockey, Archery, Badminton, Wrestling, Boxing, Judo, Volleyball, Gatka, Taekwondo, Wushu, Mallakhamb, Kho-Kho, Kabaddi etc and strengthens the sports ecosystem, and also takes care of nurturing rural sports talent.

(c): Olympic Task Force (OTF) was set up in January, 2017 to prepare a comprehensive Action Plan for effective preparation of Indian sportspersons in the next three Olympic Games 2021-Tokyo, 2024-Paris and 2028-Los Angeles.

In pursuance of recommendations of OTF, Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports has launched a scheme namely, Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS) to identify and support elite athletes who have the potential to achieve Olympic podium at Olympics to be held in 2021,

2024 and 2028. The existing Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS) covers the junior and sub-junior athletes also. These young upcoming athletes categorised as Development Group under the TOPS are being groomed for Paris 2024 and Los Angeles 2028 Olympics Games. National Sports Development Fund (NSDF) provides Out of Pocket Allowance (OPA) to TOPS athletes selected in Core Group at the rate of ₹ 50,000 per month and to Development Group athletes at the rate of ₹ 25,000 per month. These athletes primarily come from rural areas. Identification of athletes for inclusion in Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS) is being done on the basis of recommendations of Mission Olympic Cell (MOC) which is headed by Director General, SAI and consists of Sports experts and representatives of the National Sports Federations (NSFs).
