

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 606
TO BE ANSWERED ON 04/02/2021**

Assistance to sportsmen

†606. SHRIMATI PRATIMA MONDAL

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

- (a) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government for ensuring safety during sports in the post Covid 19 situation; and**
- (b) the assistance provided by the Government to the sports persons for sustaining their training and practice during pandemic period?**

ANSWER

**THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE)
FOR YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS
(SHRI KIREN RIJIJU)**

(a) & (b) The Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports, being the nodal Ministry for implementation of Sports related policy decisions at the National level, has taken the following major steps for ensuring safety during sports in the post Covid 19 situation :

- I. The Ministry has issued the following Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) and Guidelines for sports related activities in the COVID-19 environment :**
 - a. SOP for resumption of swimming training of sportspersons in COVID-19 environment.**
 - b. SOP for Organizing Sports Competitions in the Country in a COVID-19 Environment.**
 - c. SOP for opening up of Stadia for Sports events**
 - d. SOP for operation of Swimming Pools in a Covid-19 Environment.**

- ii. Sports Authority of India (SAI), an autonomous body under the aegis of the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports has issued an SOP for Sports Activities.**

Assistance is also being provided to the sports persons for sustaining their training and practice during pandemic period. Details of such assistance provided are given in Annexure – I.

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) & (b) OF UNSTARRED Q NO. 606 FOR 04/02/2021 REGARDING ASSISTANCE TO SPORTSPERSONS ASKED BY SMT. PRATIMA MONDAL, HON'BLE MP.

Details of assistance provided to the sports persons for sustaining their training and practice during pandemic period

- i. 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 Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) at their homes during the first phases of nationwide lockdown so that they can train within their homes.**
- ii. 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, and nutrition in COVID, strength & conditioning, high performance sports environment, anti-doping have been organized for Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS) athletes via, video conferencing, social media like Facebook Live, Insta Live etc.**
- iii. The athletes are being kept in a bio bubble including the coaches and support staff involved in their training. Also all support staff including coaches, staying inside bio bubble were provided accommodation at free of cost and with nominal charges for boarding at Rs.50/- per person per day.**
- iv. International exposures for Indian athletes have already resumed in all sports where the international calendar has commenced.**
- v. Indian teams have been travelling for international exposures post unlock as per the international calendar published, and following the guidelines as laid down by the organisers/international body and the respective host country/city. The above exposures are funded under the Assistance to National Sports Federation (NSF) Scheme (Annual Calendar for Training and Competition) or in other cases under Target Olympic Podium Scheme.**
- vi. Athletes & Coach Education Programme and Coach Development Programme (ACEP/ CDP) were conducted and lectures were delivered by the Experts in different sports discipline.**

- vii. The athletes of National Centre of Excellences (NCOEs) who resumed training on resumption of training were provided air ticket by SAI from their home town to the NCOE and those living in 500 km radius were provided AC-3 tier train ticket.**
- viii. National Coaching Camps were resumed for the 2021 Olympic bound athletes. The SOP formulated was strictly followed at the national camps. Timetable has been formulated for the athletes (or group of athletes in case of team sport) so that they can train without coming in contact with the other athletes. Other than the coaches, support staff and necessary administrative staff, no one else was allowed to meet or interact with the athletes at the National camps.**