

**Government of India  
Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports  
Department of Sports**

**LOK SABHA**

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2638**

**TO BE ANSWERED ON 02.08.2022**

**Special Award for Sportspersons**

**2638. SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE:**

**SHRI KULDEEP RAI SHARMA:**

**DR. SUBHASH RAMRAO BHAMRE:**

**DR. DNV SENTHILKUMAR. S.:**

**DR. AMOL RAMSING KOLHE:**

**SHRI SUNIL DATTATRAY TATKARE:**

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

**(a) whether the Government has introduced any scheme for giving special awards to the medal winners in international sports events and their coaches;**

**(b) if so, the details thereof along with the awards given during the last three years and the current year;**

**(c) whether introduction of this scheme has boosted Indian sports in the country and if so, the details thereof;**

**(d) whether the Government has failed to support the sportspersons after their retirement from active sports and if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;**

**(e) whether lack of support from the Government has forced many youths not to select sports as their career and if so, the details thereof and the corrective steps taken by the Government in this regard; and**

**(f) the steps taken by the Government to formulate a policy to honour athletes/ sportspersons winning medals in international events?**

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

**(a) to (c): Yes, Sir. The Government is implementing the Scheme of Cash Awards to Medal Winners in international sporting events and their Coaches.**

**The details of the scheme during the last three years and the current year are given in the Table below:**

<b>Name of the scheme</b>	<b>Number of sportspersons benefitted during the last three years and current year</b>			
	<b>2019-20</b>	<b>2020-21</b>	<b>2021-22</b>	<b>2022-23 (as on 27.07.2022)</b>
<b>Scheme of Cash Award to Medal Winners in International Sports Events and their Coaches</b>	<b>599</b>	<b>391</b>	<b>478</b>	<b>176</b>

**This scheme has given a boost to Indian sports as reflected in the best-ever medal tally of India at Tokyo Olympics, 2020, and the recent performance and medals won by Indian athletes at various international sporting events.**

**(d): Government provides support to the sportspersons after their retirement from active sports through the scheme of Pension to Meritorious Sportspersons, with the objective of providing an assured monthly income through annuity for outstanding sportspersons. Under the existing scheme, monthly pension ranging from Rs. 12,000/- to Rs. 20,000/- is provided to ex-sportspersons.**

**(e): Government is encouraging Youth to select sports as a career by providing support through various schemes/programmes as under:**

- i. The Khelo India Scheme has the twin objectives of mass participation and promotion of excellence in sports. A financial assistance @ Rs. 6,28,400 (including Rs. 1,20,000 as Out of Pocket Allowances (OPA) to the Athlete) per annum per athlete is being provided to the Khelo India Academies for training of the selected Khelo India Athletes.**
- ii. Under the Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS), Government provides assistance to India's top athletes in their preparation for Olympic and Paralympic Games. OPA of Rs. 50,000/- (Rupees fifty thousand only) per month to the TOPS Core Group athletes and Rs. 25,000/- (Rupees twenty-five thousand only) a month to the TOPS Development Group athletes is given.**
- iii. Government provides assistance to elite sportspersons preparing for major international events such as the Olympics, the Asian Games, and the Commonwealth Games etc. by providing funding support through its Scheme of Assistance to National Sports Federations (NSFs). Under the Scheme, identified promising sportspersons/teams are provided all requisite facilities for their preparation including a wholesome nutritious diet, food supplements, equipments, state-of-the-art infrastructure, lodging, travelling facilities, services of reputed Indian and foreign coaches/supporting staff, scientific & medical support, sports kit, etc. besides financial assistance for their training abroad, and participation in international competitions in India and abroad.**
- iv. Equipment support is provided to the athletes in their respective sport disciplines under the Scheme as per the proposals received. Also, specific equipments requested by athletes for training & competition are also provided as recommended by the NSFs under TOPS.**
- v. Under the Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay National Welfare Fund for Sportspersons (PDUNWFS) Scheme, Government provides financial assistance (upto Rs.2.50 lakh) to sportspersons living in indigent circumstances for training, procurement for sports equipment, participation in national and international sports events, etc.**

**(f): Apart from the above schemes, in order to honour athletes/ sportspersons winning medals in international events, Government also confers the National Sports Awards every year under various categories like Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award, Arjuna Award, Dronacharya Award and Dhyan Chand Award.**

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