

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. †1022
ANSWERED ON 29.07.2024**

To Promote Sports Talent Persons in Rural Areas

†1022. MS IQRA CHOUDHARY:

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

(a) whether the Government has taken any measures for nurturing talents of the sports persons from rural areas, particularly making them excellent athletes, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the number of the places where racetracks and related infrastructure have been developed by the Government to nurture sports talent in the State of Uttar Pradesh; and

(c) the measures taken or likely to be taken by the Government for nurturing the new rising athletes and other sports talent?

ANSWER

**THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS & SPORTS
{DR. MANSUKH MANDAVIYA}**

(a) 'Sports' being a State subject, the responsibility of development of sports, including measures for nurturing talents of the sports persons from rural areas, particularly making them excellent athletes and creation of racetracks and related infrastructure to nurture sports talent, rests primarily with the State/Union Territory Governments. The Union Government supplements their efforts. However, the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports implements the following schemes to promote sports in the country, including the State of Uttar Pradesh for nurturing the new rising athletes and other sports talent:

(i) Scheme of "Khelo India- National Programme for Development of Sports"; (ii) Assistance to National Sports Federations; (iii) Special Awards to Winners in International Sports Events and their Coaches; (iv) National Sports Awards; (v) Pension to Meritorious Sportspersons; (vi) Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay National Sports Welfare Scheme; (vii) National Sports

Development Fund; and (viii) Sports Training Centres through Sports Authority of India.

Details of the above schemes are available in the public domain on the websites of this Ministry and the Sports Authority of India.

(b) Thirty sports infrastructure projects, including two Athletic Tracks, have been sanctioned in the State of Uttar Pradesh under the Khelo India Scheme of this Ministry.

(c) Several initiatives have been undertaken by Ministry to nurture new and emerging athletes and other sports talents. One such initiative is Khelo India Rising Talent Identification (KIRTI), which aims to identify talented individual aged 9 to 18 years, through scientific testing methods.

Additionally, under the Khelo India Scheme, Khelo India Athletes receive training and exposure opportunities at accredited academies that meet international standards. These athletes participate in the Khelo India Games, which adhere to international technical standards. They also compete with national and international athletes at various forums, enhancing their skills and strengthening the country's talent pool for future national and international events.
