

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

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2121  
TO BE ANSWERED ON – 05.08.2024**

**To Develop Football in Kerala**

**2121 DR. M P ABDUSSAMAD SAMADANI:**

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

**(a) Whether the Government is aware about the popularity and significance of football in the State of Kerala, particularly in the district of Malappuram, as well as the people's passion for it and produced many international players;**

**(b) Whether the Government has any plans to ensure the development of football infrastructure in the Malappuram district in the State of Kerala under the Khelo India programme, aligns with international standards and aim to foster local talent and prepare them for national and international competitions; and**

**(c) If so, the details thereof?**

**ANSWER**

**THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS  
(DR. MANSUKH MANDAVIYA)**

**(a): The Government has recognized All India Football Federation (AIFF) as National Sports Federation for promotion and development of Football sports in the country. As per AIFF, Malappuram is emerging as Kerala's leading football nursery, with more than a hundred football academies providing ample opportunities for young players to hone their skills. Malappuram is also emerging as a prominent host for football events in recent years. The 75th Edition of Santosh Trophy, which was won by Kerala, was organized in Malappuram District in 2022 where record number of attendance was seen.**

**(b) to (c): Sports, being a State subject, it is responsibility of State Governments and Union Territory (UT) Administrations to take steps for promotion and development of the sports in their respective States/UTs, including creation and enhancement of sports infrastructure, so that more and more sportspersons from their States and UTs achieve the levels of excellence to participate in international sports events including mega sports such as Olympic Games, Asian Games and Commonwealth Games.**

**To support the efforts of State Governments, Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports through Sports Authority of India is implementing the following Sports Promotional Schemes across the country to identify talented sportspersons in the various age groups and nurture them to excel at national and international levels:**

- National Centres of Excellence (NCOE), Trivandrum having 19 Football athletes under the Residential scheme.**
- SAI Training Centre (STC), Kollam having 21 Football athletes under the Non-Residential scheme.**

**Under the component “Creation and Upgradation of Sports Infrastructure” of the Khelo India Scheme, 323 sports infrastructure projects, including 06 projects in the State of Kerala have been sanctioned across the country. Details are available at <https://mdsd.kheloindia.gov.in/>. Further, 01 Khelo India Centre at District Malappuram in football discipline has been sanctioned under Khelo India Scheme.**

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