

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

**LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION No. 12
TO BE ANSWERED ON 21.07.2025**

Initiatives/Schemes for Welfare of Sportspersons

***12. Shri Yogender Chandolia:
Smt. Kamaljeet Sehrawat:**

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

- (a) whether any initiative has been taken by the Government to address the challenges faced by the sportspersons, coaches/trainers and strengthen the financial security, training infrastructure and mental wellness support for the sportspersons and if so, the details thereof;**
- (b) the steps taken/being taken by the Government for providing timely disbursement of financial assistance and incentives to the sportspersons under various schemes;**
- (c) the number of sportspersons benefitted from the Welfare and Support Schemes for Sportspersons during the last five years and current year in the country, State/UT-wise, including NCT of Delhi;**
- (d) the manner in which the revised scheme for providing Assistance to the National Sports Federations (NSF) addresses the challenges faced by the athletes and coaches/trainers;**
- (e) the sports disciplines identified by the Government to promote league culture; and**

(f) the role of the said scheme in promoting long-term goal of becoming a global sporting superpower and hosting the 2036 Olympic Games?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (f): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

*** * * * ***

**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (f) OF LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 12 FOR ANSWER ON 21.07.2025 REGARDING
“INITIATIVES/SCHEMES FOR WELFARE OF SPORTSPERSONS” ASKED BY
SHRI YOGENDER CHANDOLIA AND SMT. KAMALJEET SEHRAWAT,
HON’BLE MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT**

(a): Yes, Sir. ‘Sports’ being a State subject the responsibility for providing sports infrastructure and training rests with the State Government. The Central Government supplements the efforts of the State Government. Further, the Government has undertaken a series of measures to address the challenges faced by sportspersons and coaches/trainers, aimed at enhancing their financial security, training infrastructure, and mental wellness support through various schemes/programmes of this Ministry such as:

- Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS): Provides comprehensive support to selected sportspersons including monthly Out-of-Pocket Allowance (OPA), access to international training, coaching, physiotherapy, mental conditioning, and equipment.**
- Khelo India Scheme: Focuses on talent identification, infrastructure development, athlete scholarships, and coaching support at both grassroots and elite levels.**
- Assistance to National Sports Federations (ANSF): Financial support is provided towards training of athletes which includes all requisite facilities for their preparations including wholesome nutritious diet, food supplements, equipment support, state-of-the-art infrastructure, lodging, travelling facilities, services of reputed 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.**
- Scheme of Sports Fund for Pension to Meritorious Sportspersons provides additional financial security to sportspersons post retirement from active sports career in the form of life-time pension ranging from ₹12,000/- to ₹20,000/- per month. The sportspersons, who are retired from an active sports career and won medals in**

Olympic Games, Paralympic Games, World Cup, World Championships, Asian Games, Para Asian Games and Commonwealth Games, are eligible for life-time pension under the scheme.

- **Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay National Welfare Program for Sportspersons : Provides financial aid to sportspersons and their families for injury, hardship, equipment, and event participation etc.**

To provide mental wellness support to sportspersons, sport psychologists and mental trainers are engaged at both national team and individual levels. Presence of a sports psychologist, including High-Performance Analyst (Psychology) or Performance Analyst (Psychology) is ensured at the National Centres of Excellence (NCoE) of SAI. These sports psychologists are responsible for helping the athletes with the mental training pertaining to optimal performance, as well as enabling them to achieve emotional wellbeing also.

Further the Government has recently announced Khelo Bharat Niti-2025 which also, *inter-alia*, has provisions to address the challenges being faced by the sportspersons and the coaches/trainers.

(b): The Government has adopted a series of measures to ensure the timely and transparent disbursement of financial assistance and incentives to sportspersons/coaches under various schemes. Key measures among these is the implementation of Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) mechanism for disbursement and online portals to digitize the process of inviting applications, thus ensuring the timely and efficient disbursement of financial assistance/incentives to beneficiaries. Under this system, financial assistance/support is directly transferred into the bank accounts of the sportspersons/coaches thereby eliminating delays, reduces administrative bottlenecks, and ensures that the benefits reach the intended beneficiaries in a timely and efficient manner.

(c): The details are placed at Annexure – I.

(d): The amendment to the Scheme of Assistance to National Sports Federations (ANSF), have been notified by the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports in May 2025. The key features of the revised norms of ANSF are annexed at Annexure - II.

These revisions aim to create a high-performance ecosystem that supports athlete excellence and coach empowerment while ensuring financial and operational transparency across the sports system.

(e): Several NSFs and sports organisations are organising professional and semi-professional leagues in a range of disciplines, including Cricket, Football, Rugby, Volleyball, Kho-Kho, and Basketball. These leagues not only help in scouting and grooming emerging talent from grassroots levels but also promote regional representation and encourage private sector participation and sponsorship.

(f): The Government, through schemes such as the Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS) and the Scheme of Assistance to National Sports Federations (ANSF), is working with a long-term vision to establish India as a global sporting superpower and prepare the ecosystem for the 2036 Olympic Games. Key initiatives include:

(i) Focused Support to Future Medal Probables under the TOPS Development Group for the 2032 and 2036 Olympics.

(ii) The revised ANSF norms mandate that at least 20% of National Sports Federations (NSFs) budgets be allocated to grassroots development.

(iii) NSFs are now empowered to hire foreign coaches and experts with enhanced financial limits. Additionally, High Performance Directors (HPDs) are mandated in large NSFs to lead long-term technical planning.

(iv) Financial support for hosting international competitions in India has been significantly increased upto Rs.2 crore.

(v) Transparent, Decentralized, and Inclusive Development: The revised norms require NSFs to publish transparent selection policies in advance and support the decentralized development of academies across the country. Additionally, provision of diet allowances of ₹10,000/month for

athletes during non-camp periods ensures athletes can maintain training standards even at the local level.

(vi) Integrated Sports Science and Medical Support: A scientific approach to training is supported with enhanced provisions for periodic medical assessments, injury prevention, and sports science monitoring, laying the groundwork for sustained athlete health and peak performance.

*** * * * ***

Annexure-I**ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (c) OF LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 12 FOR ANSWER ON 21.07.2025 REGARDING
“INITIATIVES/SCHEMES FOR WELFARE OF SPORTSPERSONS”****1. Total number of beneficiaries under Scheme of Sports Fund for
Pension to Meritorious Sportspersons.**

	Financial Year						
S.no.	States	2020- 2021	2021- 2022	2022- 2023	2023- 2024	2024- 2025	2025- 26
1	Punjab	6	3	2	3	1	2
2	Madhya Pradesh	3	0	1	0	0	0
3	Tamil Nadu	1	0	0	2	0	0
4	Maharashtra	5	3	3	3	1	2
5	Odisha	1	0	0	2	2	1
6	Assam	2	0	0	0	0	0
7	Uttar Pradesh	1	1	0	1	1	1
8	West Bengal	1	0	0	1	0	1
9	Haryana	6	5	10	6	3	1
10	Delhi	1	1	1	2	2	1
11	Manipur	1	0	0	1	0	0
12	Jharkhand	1	0	0	0	0	0
13	Karnataka	1	3	1	0	3	0

14	Kerala	3	8	0	0	2	1
15	Himachal Pradesh	0	1	0	0	0	1
16	Andhra Pradesh	0	1	1	0	0	1
17	Rajasthan	0	0	1	1	0	0
18	Telangana	0	0	0	1	1	0
19	Manali	0	0	0	0	1	0
20	Tripura	0	0	0	0	0	1
21	Total	33	26	20	23	17	13
22	Number of Beneficiaries	33	26	20	23	17	13
	Grand Total	132					

2. The total beneficiaries under the Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay National Welfare Program for Sportspersons.

	Financial Year					
S.no.	States	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025
1	Delhi	7	5	7	4	0
2	Andhra Pradesh	2	0	1	0	3
3	Uttar Pradesh	5	7	7	6	7
4	Haryana	7	8	5	14	12
5	West Bengal	1	3	3	4	0
6	Rajasthan	2	0	0	2	2
7	Bihar	1	4	1	0	0
8	Manipur	2	4	0	0	0
9	Maharashtra	2	6	7	6	2
10	Jharkhand	2	2	1	0	0
11	Karnataka	2	6	2	0	1
12	Punjab	2	3	1	1	0
13	Jammu & Kashmir	1	1	4	2	1
14	Madhya Pradesh	1	1	1	0	2
15	Chhattisgarh	1	2	2	0	0
16	Assam	0	1	1	1	0

17	Gujrat	0	1	0	0	0
18	Tamil Nadu	0	1	3	3	5
19	Bangalore	0	0	1	0	0
20	Kerala	0	0	1	0	0
21	Himachal Pradesh	0	0	2	0	2
22	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	1	0	2
23	Uttarakhand	0	0	1	0	0
24	Pune	0	0	1	0	0
25	Chandigarh	0	0	1	0	0
26	Odisha	0	0	0	1	0
27	Telangana	0	0	0	1	0
Total		38	55	54	45	39
Grand Total		231				

3. Beneficiaries under TARGET OLYMPIC PODIUM SCHEME.

Sl. No.	Name of State	No. of Athletes
1	Andaman & Nicobar	0
2	Andhra Pradesh	4
3	Arunachal	0
4	Assam	5
5	Bihar	1
6	Chandigarh	4
7	Chhattisgarh	3
8	Delhi	22
9	Goa	1
10	Gujarat	10
11	Haryana	121
12	Himachal	1
13	Jammu & Kashmir	2
14	Jharkhand	10
15	Karnataka	19
16	Kerala	12
17	Madhya Pradesh	12
18	Maharashtra	33
19	Manipur	13
20	Meghalaya	1
21	Mizoram	2
22	Odisha	12
23	Punjab	35
24	Rajasthan	21

25	Sikkim	1
26	Tamil Nadu	25
27	Telangana	13
28	Tripura	1
29	Uttar Pradesh	23
30	Uttarakhand	9
31	West Bengal	11

4. The details of athletes who have been benefited/provided financial assistance under the Khelo India Scheme (Year-wise & State -wise) details thereof:

State & Year wise financial support / scholarships to KIAs under Khelo India Scheme								
SN	State / UT	2025-26 (Q1)	2024-25	2023-24	2022-23	2021-22	2020-21	2019-20
1	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	4	4	3	3	6	8	7
2	Andhra Pradesh	57	63	49	55	43	56	40
3	Arunachal Pradesh	17	16	14	11	9	12	9
4	Assam	53	42	39	43	54	45	36
5	Bihar	17	14	14	9	8	10	12
6	Chandigarh	34	34	30	40	39	46	33
7	Chhattisgarh	31	37	45	35	44	30	22
8	Daman Diu and Dadra Nagar Haveli	2	3	3	2	1	4	1
9	Delhi	140	156	163	199	212	254	195
10	Goa	4	6	10	18	16	18	16
11	Gujarat	68	64	65	81	67	104	106
12	Haryana	497	490	467	432	392	438	375
13	Himachal Pradesh	32	30	28	34	33	26	19
14	Jammu & Kashmir	14	17	19	20	30	20	13

15	Jharkhand	51	54	47	40	24	27	27
16	Karnataka	160	157	138	136	144	159	173
17	Kerala	114	94	108	103	109	126	131
18	Ladakh	1	1	0	1	0	0	1
19	Lakshadweep	1	1	1	0	0	0	0
20	Madhya Pradesh	97	109	114	100	109	54	72
21	Maharashtra	303	325	347	365	415	347	365
22	Manipur	116	109	105	126	189	255	203
23	Meghalaya	4	5	2	3	13	6	12
24	Mizoram	15	10	15	28	25	39	26
25	Nagaland	1	2	1	1	0	5	0
26	Odisha	81	77	70	57	66	47	53
27	Puducherry	8	5	7	7	6	13	6
28	Punjab	144	159	169	179	161	158	188
29	Rajasthan	155	137	105	81	108	137	95
30	Sikkim	0	1	1	2	6	9	3
31	Tamil Nadu	190	199	173	167	101	94	92
32	Telangana	58	72	59	51	55	132	60
33	Tripura	3	5	5	8	11	23	9
34	Uttar Pradesh	176	190	186	191	186	139	159
35	Uttarakhand	49	45	32	40	53	94	69
36	West Bengal	111	112	118	91	81	95	83
Total		2808	2845	2752	2759	2816	3030	2711

**ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (d) OF LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 12 FOR ANSWER ON 21.07.2025 REGARDING
“INITIATIVES/SCHEMES FOR WELFARE OF SPORTSPERSONS”**

The key features under the scheme of Assistance to National Sports Federations (ANSF) for addressing the challenges are as follows:

- (i) Improved Athlete Support Infrastructure:**
 - **Enhanced financial assistance for organizing national coaching camps with better infrastructure, sports science support, and training facilities.**
 - **Assistance for hiring foreign coaches, sports scientists, psychologists, and mental trainers to improve the quality of preparation and athlete well-being.**
- (ii) Focus on Financial Security and Recognition for Coaches:**
 - **The remuneration ceilings for coaches and support staff have been significantly increased, with the limit for Chief Coaches revised from ₹3 lakh to ₹7.5 lakh per month.**
 - **Disturbance allowance of ₹1 lakh/month is provided to Government/PSU-employed coaches joining national camps, ensuring fair compensation and retention of top talent.**
- (iii) Structured and Transparent Selection Process:**
 - **NSFs are now required to publish athlete and coach selection policies well in advance (one year for Continental/World events and two years for Olympics/Asian Games), promoting transparency and predictability in selection.**
- (iv) Greater Emphasis on Grassroots and Junior Development:**
 - **NSFs must earmark at least 20% of their annual budget for grassroots development through their affiliates, ensuring talent identification and progression from the junior level.**

- **Dedicated junior development programs are to be overseen by NSF-level committees, supported through convergence with other Ministry schemes.**
- (v) Sports Science and Nutrition Support:**
 - **Financial support for medical assessments, diet, and scientific monitoring has been enhanced (e.g., diet charges increased, monthly allowance of ₹10,000 for probables during non-camp periods).**
 - **Centralized IT portal has been made mandatory for tracking training loads, injuries, and recovery.**
- (vi) Capacity Building and Knowledge Transfer:**
 - **Mandatory engagement of Coaching Education Experts and contribution by foreign experts to train domestic coaches and technical staff, thereby building long-term institutional capacity.**

* * * * *