

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

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1210  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 28.07.2025**

**Grassroots Sports Development in Punjab**

**1210. Dr. Amar Singh:**

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

**(a) whether the Government agrees that in order to improve India's performance and medal tally in the Olympics, there is a pressing need to focus on grassroots sports development, investment in infrastructure and comprehensive support to athletes;**

**(b) if so, the details of the initiatives proposed or undertaken by the Government, including schemes for early talent identification, specialized coaching, foreign exposure, sports science support and financial assistance for promising athletes;**

**(c) if not, the reasons therefor;**

**(d) whether the Government has any special policy focus or targeted programmes to engage and promote youth participation in sports in Punjab; and**

**(e) if so, the details thereof including efforts to help Punjab to contribute more gold medals at the national and international level?**

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

**(a) to (c): Yes, sir. The Government has taken various measures for achieving excellence in sports in the country, including at the grassroot level. 'Sports' being a State subject, the responsibility of development and encouragement of sports rests primarily with the State/Union Territory Governments. The Central Government only**

**supplements their efforts. However, this Ministry runs various schemes for the promotion of sports across the country, including Punjab. These schemes include:**

- (i) Khelo India – National Programme for Development of Sports;**
- (ii) Assistance to National Sports Federations (NSFs);**
- (iii) Cash Incentives to Medal Winners in International Sports Events and their coaches;**
- (iv) National Sports Awards;**
- (v) Pension to Meritorious Sportspersons;**
- (vi) Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay National Welfare Program for Sportspersons;**
- (vii) National Sports Development Fund;**
- (viii) Running Sports Training centres through Sports Authority of India (SAI); and**
- (ix) National Centre for Sports Science and Research (NCSSR).**

**The details of these schemes are available in the public domain on the website of the Ministry (<https://yas.nic.in> ).**

**(d) & (e): Several initiatives have been taken under Khelo India Scheme to engage and promote youth participation in the country, including the state of Punjab. Under the above Scheme, 29 Khelo India Centres (KICs) have been established in the state of Punjab. Punjab also has 01 Khelo India State Centre of Excellence for Hockey, Boxing and Athletics. Additionally, Punjab has 24 Khelo India Academies. Their details can be seen at <https://dashboard.kheloindia.gov.in/>. SAI also runs 01 National Centre of Excellence (NCoE) at Patiala and 3 SAI Training Centres at Mustuana Sahib, Badal and Ludhiana in Punjab.**

**Further, under the component “Creation and Up-gradation of Sports Infrastructure” of the Khelo India Scheme, 328 sports infrastructure projects (including 12 in the state of Punjab at a cost of Rs. 106.19 crore) have been sanctioned across the country. Details of these projects are available at <https://mdsd.kheloindia.gov.in/>.**

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