

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

**LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. *40
TO BE ANSWERED ON 02.02.2026**

Development of World-Class Sports Infrastructure

***40. SHRI MOHMAD HANEEFA:**

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

(a) whether the Government recognises Ladakh's exceptional potential to emerge as a world-class winter sports hub owing to its unique geography, high-altitude terrain and prolonged winter season;

(b) if so, whether any comprehensive policy or roadmap is being formulated to develop world-class sports infrastructure, training facilities and support systems for winter sports in Ladakh;

(c) whether the Government proposes to organise regular national and international winter sports competitions, championships and tournaments in Ladakh to promote sports tourism and global visibility; and

(d) the steps taken/being taken to ensure participation of local youth and athletes through coaching, exposure, and employment opportunities so that the development of winter sports contributes to sustainable livelihoods and strengthens the sporting culture in Ladakh?

**ANSWER
THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS & SPORTS
[DR. MANSUKH MANDAVIYA]**

(a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. *40 TO BE ANSWERED ON 02.02.2026 REGARDING “DEVELOPMENT OF WORLD-CLASS SPORTS INFRASTRUCTURE” ASKED BY SHRI MOHMAD HANEEFA, HON’BLE MEMBER OF LOK SABHA

(a) to (d) ‘Sports’ being a State subject, the responsibility of development of sports, including, formulation of comprehensive policy or roadmap to develop worldclass sports infrastructure, training facilities and support systems for winter sports, organising regular national and international winter sports competitions, championships and tournaments to promote sports tourism and global visibility and taking steps to ensure participation of local youth and athletes through coaching, exposure, and employment opportunities so that the development of winter sports contributes to sustainable livelihoods and strengthens the sporting culture, rests primarily with the respective State/Union Territory Governments. The Union Government only supplements their efforts by bridging critical gaps. The Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports implements the following schemes for the promotion of sports in the country, including in Ladakh:

- (i) Khelo India - National Programme for Development of Sports;**
- (ii) Assistance to National Sports Federations;**
- (iii) Cash Incentive 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; and**
- (viii) Running Sports Training Centres through Sports Authority of India (SAI).**

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

This Ministry, after taking into consideration the potential talent and prospects for development of Ice Hockey in Ladakh region and the fact that majority of Ice Hockey players, who participate in national and international Ice Hockey events, hail from Himalayan belt, has recognised Ice Hockey Federation of India (IHFI) as a National Sports

Promotion Organization (NSPO) for the promotion and development of sport of Ice Hockey.

Further, this Ministry has conducted three editions of the Khelo India Winter Games 2024 to 2026 in Ladakh, focusing on the disciplines of Ice Hockey and Ice Skating. These games were held from 02–06 February 2024 and 23–27 January 2025, both seeing a participation of over 350 athletes. The most recent edition of Khelo India Winter Games, conducted from 20–26 January 2026, demonstrated a significant increase in engagement with over 450 athletes participating in the events held at Leh.

Under Khelo India Scheme, this Ministry has approved 03 sports infrastructure projects, notified 03 Khelo India Centres and 01 Khelo India State Centres of Excellence in Ladakh. Further, as on date, 01 Khelo India Athlete from Ladakh has been identified under the scheme and is getting trained for various national and international sports events. Details of the same are available in the public domain on the dashboard of the Ministry at <https://dashboard.kheloindia.gov.in>.

In addition to above, 01 SAI Training Centre, catering to the athletes of Boxing and Taekwondo is also operational at Kargil.

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