

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 5955
TO BE ANSWERED ON 30.03.2026**

Challenges Faced by Sportspersons

5955. SHRI BENNY BEHANAN:

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

(a) whether the Government is aware of the challenges faced by young sportspersons in the country, including lack of adequate infrastructure, financial support and coaching facilities;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken/being taken by the Government to address these issues;

(c) whether the Government has conducted any nationwide assessment regarding the availability of sports infrastructure and training facilities for youth athletes, particularly in rural and semi-urban areas and if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government proposes to increase financial assistance, scholarships and stipends for young sportspersons who represent their State or the country in national and international competitions and if so, the details thereof; and

(e) whether the Government has received complaints regarding delays in disbursement of funds, scholarships and incentives to youth sportspersons and if so, the details along with the corrective measures taken thereon?

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

(a) to (e) 'Sports' being a State subject, the responsibility for development of sports, including addressing challenges faced by young

sportspersons relating to availability of sports infrastructure, conducting nationwide assessment regarding the availability of sports infrastructure and training facilities for youth athletes, increasing financial support, coaching facilities, training facilities, scholarships, stipends, timely disbursement of incentives and addressing complaints regarding delays in disbursement of funds, scholarships and incentives to youth sportspersons, rests primarily with the respective State/Union Territory Governments. The Union Government supplements their efforts by bridging critical gaps. The Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports implements the following schemes for the promotion of sports across the country, which also cater to training, infrastructure, athlete support and other facilities for sportspersons:

- 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 (NSDF);**
- viii. Running Sports Training centres through Sports Authority of India (SAI); and**
- ix. National Centre for Sports Science and Research (NCSSR).**

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

The Khelo India Scheme and National Sports Development Fund (NSDF), implemented by this Ministry, under which financial assistance for development of sports infrastructure is provided are demand-driven schemes. The proposals received from the State/ Union Territory Governments and other eligible entities are considered for financial support, subject to their completeness, technical feasibility and availability of funds under the scheme. The details of sports infrastructure sanctioned under the Khelo India Scheme and NSDF across the country are available in the public domain on the dashboards of the Ministry at mdsd.kheloindia.gov.in and nsdf.yas.gov.in/nsdf-glance.html, respectively.

The Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, through various Sports Promotional Schemes of the Sports Authority of India (SAI), provides financial assistance and stipends to young sportspersons for their training and participation in national and international competitions. These provisions are reviewed periodically to ensure adequate support. At present, no proposal is under consideration for increasing financial assistance under SAI schemes. Under the Khelo India Scheme, 2,904 identified athletes receive financial assistance of ₹6.28 lakh per annum, including a monthly Out-of-Pocket Allowance (OPA) of ₹10,000, along with expenses for coaching, diet, lodging, and medical insurance. Further, under the Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS), Core Group athletes receive an OPA of ₹50,000 per month and Development Group athletes ₹25,000 per month, besides complete financial support for customized training, international exposure, coaching, equipment, and sports science assistance.

Occasional delays in disbursement of funds and scholarships to sportspersons have been reported. To address this, the Government has implemented Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) for direct and timely fund release, introduced online monitoring systems for transparency, and strengthened grievance redressal mechanisms. These measures have significantly improved the efficiency and timeliness of financial disbursements to athletes.
