

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1601
TO BE ANSWERED ON 12.12.2023**

Scholarships for Tribals in Sports

1601. SHRI ACHYUTANANDA SAMANTA:

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

- (a) whether the Government is providing any scholarships to tribals aimed towards achieving excellence in the field of sports and if so, the details thereof;**
- (b) whether the Government proposes to provide such scholarships to tribal further inclusion and development in the field of sports, if so, the details thereof;**
- (c) whether the Government has provided any training facilities, modern sporting equipment and infrastructure to the tribals of Odisha, if so, the details thereof;**
- (d) whether the Government proposes to open centres of excellence in the various sport-centric districts of Odisha, such as Kandhamal; and**
- (e) if so, the details thereof including the time by which it is likely to be achieved and if not, the reasons therefor?**

**ANSWER
THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS & SPORTS
[SHRI ANURAG SINGH THAKUR]**

(a) & (b): Under the component 'Promotion of Rural/Indigenous & Tribal Games' of the Khelo India Scheme of the Government, talented athletes are provided sports scholarship in the form of financial assistance of ₹10,000/- per month as Out of Pocket Allowance (OPA). At present, 2752 athletes are supported under this component of the Khelo India Scheme.

Besides, under the Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS), scholarship in terms of OPA is also provided to TOPS athletes at the rate of ₹50,000/- per month for Core Groups athletes and ₹25,000/- per month for Development Group athletes. At present, 119 athletes in Core Group and 166 athletes in Development Group are supported under the TOPS.

Further, it may be mentioned that the majority of the sportspersons identified under Sports Promotional Schemes belong to rural, backward and tribal population of the country. Moreover, talent is identified based on merit and potential irrespective of Social/Economic status.

(c): The selected athletes are provided financial and technical support in the form of expert coaches, sports equipment, boarding and lodging, sports kit, competition exposure, educational expenses, medical/ insurance and stipend as per the approved scheme norms.

Further, the talent identified under the Khelo India Scheme (including tribals of Odisha) are given option to join the accredited Khelo India Academies and provided financial assistance of ₹6.28 lakh per annum (including ₹1.20 Lakh as Scholarship/OPA). At present, 70 athletes from the State of Odisha have been notified as Khelo India Athletes.

(d) & (e): Presently, one (01) National Centre of Excellence (NCoE), three (03) SAI Training Centres (STCs), two (02) Extension Centres, one (01) Regular School and one (01) Akhara are operational in the State of Odisha. Moreover, six (06) Khelo India Centres (KIC), one (01) Khelo India State Centre of Excellence (KISCE) and eight (08) Khelo India Accredited Academies (KIAA) have been notified in the State of Odisha on the basis of proposals received from the State Government. However, no such proposal has been received from the State of Odisha.
