

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 18
TO BE ANSWERED ON 22.07.2024**

Procedure for Selection of Children from Towns and Villages

18. SMT. MALVIKA DEVI:

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

(a) the procedure for selection of children from towns and villages in district level games; and

(b) whether there are any specific schemes to provide good and latest sports equipment for children in small towns and villages, if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

(a) and (b): Identification and development of young sports talent in the country is a continuous process being undertaken by the Ministry through relevant sports promotional schemes.

The following schemes are being implemented by Sports Authority of India (SAI), an autonomous body under this Ministry, to identify talented sportspersons in various age groups and nurture them to excel at district, national and international levels:

- National Centres of Excellence (NCOE)**
- SAI Training Centre (STC)**
- Extension Centre of STC**
- National Sports Talent Contest (NSTC)**

A total of 187 Centres, including NCOEs, STCs and Extension Centres etc. are functional for implementation of above promotional

schemes of SAI where 9,432 talented sportspersons (5,704 Boys and 3,728 Girls) are being trained in various sports disciplines on residential and non-residential basis. The selected athletes are provided support, which includes sports equipment, expert coaching, boarding and lodging, sports kit etc.

Further, various programmes have been launched under the Khelo India scheme to promote sports and improve the level of sports and infrastructural facilities including stadiums, playing fields, tracks and sports training in the country including District Level (including towns and villages)

Under 'Khelo India' Scheme, 32 Khelo India State Centre of Excellence and 1059 Khelo India Centres are being supported. A total of 302 Academies are accredited for training of athletes identified under the scheme. At present, 2737 athletes (1411 Boys and 1326 Girls) have been identified. Further, infrastructural facilities such as stadiums, playing fields, tracks and sports, etc. have also been developed across the country including district, town and village levels.

Under the component 'Khelo India Centres and Sports Academies' of the 'Khelo India' Scheme, the sportsperson identified is provided financial assistance of ₹6.28 lakhs per annum (including ₹1.20 Lakhs as Out of Pocket Allowance) towards equipment support, training expenses, coaching, competitions exposure etc. They are given option to join the accredited Khelo India Academies.
