

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1504
ANSWERED ON:21.08.2012
FINANCIAL HARDSHIPS FACED BY ATHLETES
Bauri Smt. Susmita

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

- (a) whether there are reports in the media that some top Indian athletes had to face financial hardships/lack of funds to help them qualify for the London Olympic, 2012;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor and the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to take any action in this regard;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (e) whether the Government has any schemes to promote sports in the country by extending financial assistance to the sportspersons; and
- (f) if so, the reasons for denying help to the said athletes?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI AJAY MAKEN)

(a) & (b): No Madam. With a view to prepare athletes and teams for London Olympics 2012 the Ministry had launched 'Operation Excellence for London Olympics 2012' (OPEX 2012) project in March, 2011. Under OPEX 2012, 732 core probables were identified and were provided comprehensive and intensive training, both within the country and abroad and competition exposure in international sports competitions as per the approved Annual Calendar of Training and competitions (ACTC) under OPEX 2012. Funding was provided under the Schemes "Assistance to National Sports Federations" and the "National Sports Development Fund". Under these schemes, an amount of Rs. 142.43 crore approximately has been spent on preparation of athletes for London Olympics, 2012 till 25.07.2012.

The details in this regards are given below:

S.No	Purpose	Expenditure incurred
1.	Coaching Camp	Rs. 61.56 Crore
2.	Foreign Exposure	Rs. 70.55 Crore
3.	Assistance under NSDF	Rs. 10.32 Crore
	Grand Total	Rs. 142.43 Crore

(c) & (d): Question does not arise.

(e) & (f): Apart from the schemes mentioned above, the following schemes are also being implemented by the Government for promotion of sports under which financial assistance is extended to the sportspersons either directly or through concerned National Sports Federations:

- (i) Scheme of Special Awards to Medal Winners in International Sports Events and their Coaches.
- (ii) Scheme of Talent Search & Training.
- (iii) Scheme of Pension to Meritorious Sportspersons.

Further, recently the Government has approved the Scheme for Out of Turn Promotion for Sportspersons. Under this scheme the medalist of following regular disciplines are eligible for a maximum of three out of turn promotions in the entire service career:

- (a) Olympic Games,
- (b) Commonwealth Games,

(c) Asian Games,

(d) World Championships and

(e) Record breaking medal winning performance in National Games conducted by Indian Olympic Association in the regular disciplines of Olympics, Commonwealth Games, Asian Games and World Championships.

The Scheme will also cover differently abled sportspersons for equivalent events /games organized for them.