

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2622

ANSWERED ON:26.08.2013

DISCRIMINATION AGAINST ATHLETE RUNNERS

Kashinath Shri Taware Suresh;Panda Shri Baijayant

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

- (a) whether the number of athletes/athlete runners who have brought laurels to the nation in various international events in the past are languishing in abject poverty and many of them were forced to give up sports for their livelihood ;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government is discriminating athlete runners in comparison to players of other sports;
- (d) if so, the details thereof along with the steps taken by the Government to stop this discrimination;
- (e) whether the Government has taken any steps to identify those poor former sports personalities and help them to harness their talents and to improve the morale and confidence of upcoming youths interested in sports events; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI JITENDRA SINGH)

(a) & (b): Madam, no such cases have been brought to the notice of the Government recently. Whenever cases of outstanding sportspersons of yesteryears living in indigent conditions are brought to the notice of the Ministry, the Ministry considers providing ex-gratia financial assistance for their medical treatment or for alleviating their financial distress as per the Scheme of National Sports Welfare Fund for sportspersons. Recently, an assistance of Rs. 60,500/- was given from the Fund to Ms. Shanti Soundarajan former athlete for undergoing a diploma course at the Sports Authority of India's Bengaluru Centre. Ms. Soundarajan had won a silver medal in Asian Games 2006 at Doha, which was later withdrawn, as she was not found eligible to compete in the female category because of female hyperandrogenism.

Further, for providing financial security to meritorious sportspersons including those belonging to the discipline of athletics, the Ministry provides monthly pension ranging from Rs. 3000 to Rs. 10,000 for lifetime to those sportspersons who have won medals in Olympic Games, Asian Games, Commonwealth Games, World Championships (in the disciplines of Olympic Games, Asian Games and Commonwealth Games) and Para- Olympic Games, who have retired from active sports and completed 30 years of age :

(c) No, Madam.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) & (f) : The Ministry has been utilizing the services of former players and Arjuna Awardees as Government Observers for overseeing the implementation of the Scheme of Assistance to National Sports Federations (NSFs) and as observers for monitoring the implementation of Scheme of Panchayat Yuva Krida Aur Khel Abhiyan (PYKKA).