

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1793
ANSWERED ON:08.03.2016
Financial Assistance to Sports-persons
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Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is providing financial assistance to sportspersons;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, sports-wise in the country during the last five years;
- (c) the steps being taken to increase such financial assistance for national and international level sports in India and abroad; and
- (d) the steps being taken to attract and increase the financial assistance to suit the present conditions?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE)
FOR YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS
(SHRI SARBANANDA SONOWAL)

(a) & (b): The Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports is implementing a number of schemes which aim at providing financial assistance directly or indirectly to the sportspersons for their training/coaching, participation in national championships and international tournaments, cash awards to medal winners in international tournaments, pension to meritorious sportspersons and financial assistance to sportspersons of yesteryears living in indigent circumstances.

Under the Scheme of Assistance to National Sports Federations (NSFs), financial assistance is provided to the recognized NSFs of various sports for organizing coaching camps, participation of Indian sportspersons and teams in international tournaments, conduct of national championships in Senior, Junior and Sub-Junior categories, conduct of international tournaments in India, procurement of sports equipments etc.

Details of grants released to NSFs of various sports disciplines during the last five years are given in Annexure.

(c) The Ministry has taken following steps to increase the level of financial assistance to sportspersons:

- (i) Upward revision of various financial parameters under the Scheme of Assistance to National Sports Federations.
- (ii) Upward revision in the amount of cash awards to medal winners in international events under the Scheme of 'Special Awards to Medal Winners in international sports events and their coaches'.
- (iii) Launch of Target Olympic Podium (TOP) Scheme within the ambit of National Sports Development Fund with the objective of identifying and supporting potential medal prospects for 2016 and 2020 Olympic Games. The selected athletes are being provided financial assistance for their customized training at Institutes having world class facilities and other necessary support.

(d) With a view to attract and increase financial assistance in the field of sports, the Government has taken following steps:

- (i) Operating National Sports Development Fund (NSDF) for mobilizing resources from the Government as well as non-governmental sources, including the private/corporate sector and non-resident Indians, for promotion of sports and games in the country. In order to make contributions to the Fund attractive, 100% exemption from income tax is available on all contribution to the Fund.
- (ii) Inclusion of 'Training to promote rural sports, nationally recognized sports, Paralympic sports and Olympic sports' in the Schedule VII of the Companies Act 2013, which would allow companies to spend on development of sports from the funds earmarked for Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) related activities. Inclusion of sports in the CSR activities will give a boost to the promotion and development of sports in the country.
