

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS & SPORTS
(DEPARTMENT OF SPORTS)**

**LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. †*57
TO BE ANSWERED ON 04.02.2021**

Participation of Rural Youth in Sports

†*57. SADHVI PRAGYA SINGH THAKUR:

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

(a) whether the Government proposes to encourage youth belonging to poor families of rural areas towards sports across the country including Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;

(c) whether the Government proposes to formulate new schemes to increase participation of rural youth in sports; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER
THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE)
FOR YOUTH AFFAIRS & SPORTS
{ SHRI KIREN RIJIJU }**

(a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) to (d) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. †*57 TO BE ANSWERED ON 04.02.2021 REGARDING “PARTICIPATION OF RURAL YOUTH IN SPORTS” ASKED BY SADHVI PRAGYA SINGH THAKUR, HON’BLE MEMBER OF LOK SABHA

(a) Yes, Sir. The ‘Khelo India – National Programme for Development of Sports’ was launched in October, 2017 with the aim to strengthen the entire sports ecosystem to promote the twin objectives of mass participation and promotion of excellence in sports across the country. The Khelo India Scheme focuses on broad basing of sports amongst the youth of the country, including youth belonging to poor families of rural areas.

(b) to (d) Sports Authority of India (SAI) is implementing the following Sports Promotional Schemes across the country to identify talented sports persons in the age group of 8-25 years and nurture them to excel at national and international competitions:-

- National Centres of Excellence (NCOE)**
- SAI Training Centre (STC)**
- Extension Centre of STC**
- National Sports Talent Contest (NSTC)**
(its Sub-Schemes - Regular Schools, IGMA & Akharas)

Presently, 10307 talented sportspersons (6252 boys and 4055 girls) are being trained on residential and non-residential basis in these Schemes.

i) Under the Khelo India Scheme, athletes are selected from across India covering tribal, rural and backward areas of the country in 21 sports disciplines namely; Archery, Athletics, Badminton, Basketball, Boxing, Cycling, Fencing, Football, Gymnastics, Hockey, Judo, Kabaddi, Kho-Kho, Rowing, Shooting, Swimming, Table-Tennis, Volleyball, Weightlifting and Wrestling and Para Sports. At present, 2947 athletes are being supported under this Scheme.

ii) 106 centres have been declared as Khelo India Centres (KICs) including 60 SAI extension centres.

iii) A total of 232 academies have been accredited for training of Khelo India Athletes (KIAs).

The majority of sportspersons identified and trained under SAI Sports Promotional Schemes and Khelo India Scheme belong to poor families of rural areas of the country.
