

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS & SPORTS
(DEPARTMENT OF SPORTS)
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1115
ANSWERD ON- 10/02/2022

FACILITIES TO ATHLETES INCLUDING DIFFERENTLY ABLED ATHLETES

1115. SHRI VAIKO:
SHRI Y. S. CHOWDARY:

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

- (a) whether several athletes, including differently abled, face difficulties in competing in national level events since many of them are not given proper accommodation, space for training or even nutritious food during these events;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the details of action taken to provide necessary training, free medical facilities including physiotherapists and psychological support, provision of disabled friendly material such as prosthetics, clothes and other accessories; and
- (d) whether any directive has been issued to the concerned organisations to allow one family member of differently abled athlete to travel for international events, if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS

(SHRI ANURAG SINGH THAKUR)

(a) to (c): For promotion of sports among differently-abled persons, this Ministry has recognized three National Sports Federations (NSFs), namely All India Sports Council of the Deaf (AISCD), Paralympic Committee of India (PCI), and Special Olympic Bharat (SOB). Organising sports events, including the national level events is primarily the responsibility of the concerned NSFs. It is incumbent upon them to take all measures for smooth conduct of the national championships.

In 2015, this Ministry has issued guidelines directing the recognised NSFs to ensure that basic minimum facilities such as clean drinking water, neat & clean lodging facilities, availability of hygienic and healthy food, disabled-friendly toilets, playing arena, as also for creation of Grievance Cell for players for the entire duration of the event, etc. are made available to the

athletes, including the differently-abled athletes, during the conduct of various national and international events.

Para-sports is placed in the 'Priority' category and Government supports the differently-abled athletes at par with able-bodied sportspersons. Under the Scheme of Assistance to NSFs, the differently-abled athletes are supported through their respective NSFs, towards their training, which includes all requisite facilities for their preparations, including a wholesome nutritious diet, food supplements, equipment support, state-of-the-art infrastructure, lodging, travelling facilities, services of reputed Indian and Foreign Coaches/supporting staff, which also includes physiotherapists & psychologists, scientific & medical support, sports kits, etc. Financial assistance for their training abroad and participation in international competitions in India and abroad is also provided for. Financial assistance is also provided to the recognised NSFs (including AISCN, PCI and SOB) for the purpose of boarding & lodging to the sportspersons in National Championships.

Under the Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS), Government provides assistance to India's top athletes in preparations for Olympics and Paralympics. An Out-of-Pocket Allowance (OPA) of Rs.50,000/- per month is paid to the Core Group athletes. Apart from the OPA, the entire expenditure for the training plan submitted by the sportsperson is met under TOPS. Further, the TOPS Development Group athletes receive an OPA of Rs.25,000/- and customised training support at National Centres of Excellence.

(d): As per instructions issued by this Ministry in 2010, the eligibility conditions for escorts are as under:

- (1) Personal escorts to be allowed only for wheel-chair category para athletes. Immediate family members may be considered for the purpose.
- (2) General escorts @ 1 for every 4-6 athletes. Office Bearers of PCI will not be eligible to accompany the team as escorts. Only professionally trained persons shall be allowed.

Further, as per the guidelines of the International Paralympic Committee, certain disability categories are eligible for escorts.

Accordingly, all eligible Para-athletes entitled for escorts are provided with escorts of their choice, including family members, during international events.
