

**Government of India
Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports
Department of Sports**

**LOK SABHA
STARRED UNQUESTION NO. 126
TO BE ANSWERED ON 01.12.2025**

Strengthening Support for Athletes through TOPS

126. Shri Dushyant Singh:

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

(a) the objectives and key components of the Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS) and the manner in which it supports top athletes for major international competitions;

(b) the steps being taken by the Government to integrate the scheme with other similar national initiatives to promote institutional readiness to strengthen India's proposed bid to host the 2036 Olympic Games;

(c) the details of the number of athletes presently supported under the said scheme along with the criteria used for selection and the major achievements recorded so far;

(d) whether the Government proposes to expand or strengthen the scheme ahead of the upcoming Olympic and Paralympic Games; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to promote inter-ministerial coordination to align the outcomes of TOPS with broader capacity-building measures for future international sporting events, including the Olympics?

**ANSWER
THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS & SPORTS
[DR. MANSUKH MANDAVIYA]**

(a): The Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS), being implemented since 2014, aims to enhance India's medal prospects in Olympic and Paralympic Games by identifying athletes with elite potential and providing customized end-to-end support. Key components of the Scheme include:

- (i) Financial Assistance: Monthly Out of Pocket Allowance (OPA) of ₹50,000 for TOPS Core athletes and ₹25,000 for TOPS Development athletes.**
- (ii) Training & Coaching Support: Engagement of foreign/Indian expert coaches and high-performance support staff across key disciplines.**
- (iii) Sports Science & Support Services: Assistance for physiotherapy, sports psychology, nutrition, performance analytics, etc.**
- (iv) International Exposure: Support for overseas training and participation in global competitions based on performance requirements.**
- (v) High-Performance Facilities: Access to training at accredited high-performance centers in India and abroad.**
- (vi) Structured Governance: Selection and monitoring carried out by the Mission Olympic Cell (MOC), comprising discipline experts.**

(b): TOPS has been formulated to provide customized training support to elite athletes for their participation in major international sporting events. The Scheme functions in convergence with other Schemes of the Ministry that address the preparation and training requirements of sportspersons for international competitions, including mega sports events. Training and preparation for such events, including the Olympics 2036, constitute an ongoing and continuous process.

(c): Currently, the following number of athletes are being supported under TOPS:

TOPS Core Athletes: 51

TOPS Development Athletes: 130

TOPS Para Core Athletes: 52

Athletes are selected based on medal prospects at Olympics and Paralympics by the Mission Olympic Cell (MOC), which evaluates performance trajectories, international rankings, expert assessments, and qualification pathways.

Major achievements of the athletes supported under TOPS include podium finishes at Olympic Games, Para-Olympic Games, Asian Games, Para Asian Games, Commonwealth Games and World Championships.

(d): The Scheme is continuously reviewed and strengthened by inclusion of promising athletes, enhanced sports science support, and timely approval of foreign exposure plans to prepare effectively for mega sports events including Olympic Games.

(e): Inter-ministerial coordination on matters like facility development, training logistics, visa facilitation, and anti-doping measures is undertaken through established Government mechanisms, ensuring alignment of TOPS outcomes with broader capacity-building for future international events.
