

Regarding need to provide special grants for upgradation of Lal Bahadur Stadium at Bhawanipatna and allocate funds under Khelo India Scheme for construction of Manikeswari University Stadium in Kalahandi district, Odisha-laid

SHRIMATI MALVIKA DEVI (KALAHANDI): I wish to draw the attention of the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports to the urgent need for upgradation of the Lal Bahadur Stadium at Bhawanipatna in Kalahandi district. Despite being one of the oldest and most centrally located sporting facilities in the region, the stadium lacks basic infrastructure such as a standard athletics track, modern seating, changing rooms, lighting, and sports equipment. This severely restricts opportunities for talented youth from an aspirational district like Kalahandi. Further, the newly established Manikeswari University at Bhawanipatna does not yet have a dedicated university-level stadium to promote athletics, football, and other field sports for its students. A well-equipped university stadium would greatly benefit thousands of youth and help build a vibrant sports culture in western Odisha. Hence, I would like to request the Ministry to consider sanctioning a special grant for the upliftment and modernisation of Lal Bahadur Stadium, Bhawanipatna; and Allocating funds for the construction of a full-fledged Manikeswari University Stadium under Khelo India or other central schemes. This will significantly enhance sports infrastructure and provide much-needed opportunities to the youth of Kalahandi.