

Sports Authority of India

Press Release

Rs.50 lakhs sanctioned for shooters under TOPS scheme

New Delhi, 18th July: The Mission Olympic Cell met earlier today to clear funding proposals related to training, support staff, competition and equipment expenses. The committee also met to review the performances of athletes included under the Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS).

Proposals of TOPS shooters of about Rs. 50 lakhs who will be representing India at the upcoming Asian Games and World Championships were approved at the meeting. A thorough performance review of shooters under TOPS was also undertaken and four Indian shooters including Jitu Rai were dropped from the scheme, on grounds of recent below-par performances and non-selection in the Asian Games and World Championship squads.

Funding clearances were also given for four other sports, while three people from Track and Field were dropped on grounds of below-par performance.

Shooting:

Funding clearances:

a) Rs. 2.93 Lakhs has been sanctioned to Anjum Moudgil, who participated in the 50m rifle 3 position event at the 2018 Commonwealth Games, to procure ammunition for her training till the 2018 Shooting World Championships.

b) Skeet shooters Mairaj Ahmad Khan and Sheeraz Sheikh are both training under TOPS in Italy under world-renowned coach Ennio Falco. The committee approved the hiring of sports psychologist Giovanna Menditto and physiotherapist Bruno Beniamino for both shooters for a period of 10 days each at a combined cost of Rs. 6.13 Lakhs (Rs. 3.06 lakhs each).

c) Rs. 3.25 Lakhs has been sanctioned to Trap shooter Seema Tomar as financial assistance for participating in the Italian Open Green Cup competition being held from 21st July to 1st August. The expenses will also include ammunition and gun maintenance.

d) Rs. 6.43 lakhs has been sanctioned to double trap shooter Ankur Mittal. This amount includes the purchase of wooden stock, competition expenses for participating in the Italian Open Green Cup and training in Italy with coach Marcello Dradi at Conselice.

e) Rs. 8.6 lakhs has been sanctioned to double trap shooter Shardul Vihan. Rs. 6.53 lakhs will be for his training of 13 days with Marcello Dradi and the remaining Rs. 2.06 lakhs will be for purchase of shooting accessories.

f) Rs. 4.87 lakhs has been sanctioned to pistol shooter Heena Sidhu. Rs. 4.32 lakhs will be used for mental performance training with Dr. Pierre Beuchamp. The remaining amount will be utilised for the services of a physiotherapist Dr. Digbal Ranawat for a month.

g) Rs. 5.51 lakhs has been sanctioned to Trap shooter Lakshay Sheoran for purchase of equipment and training in Italy towards his preparation for the Asian Games and World Championships.

h) The committee has approved the purchase of equipment and ammunition worth Rs. 9.59 lakhs for 50m rifle 3 position shooter Sanjeev Rajput.

i) Rs. 4.37 lakhs has been sanctioned to Trap shooter Angad Vir Bajwa for his training in Italy ahead of the Asian Games and World Championships.

Performance review:

Four Indian shooters; Jitu Rai, Yashaswini Deswal, Amanpreet Singh and Neeraj Kumar were dropped from the TOPS scheme on grounds of recent below-par performance.

Table Tennis:

Rs. 2.4 lakhs (approximate) has been sanctioned to Manika Batra, who won four medals at April's Commonwealth Games, for her training till the Asian Games. This amount includes her training with coach Sandeep Gupta, use of support staff (physiotherapist, fitness trainer and masseur) and purchase of playing equipment.

Para Sport:

Rs. 7.24 Lakhs has been sanctioned for Indian para high jumper Sharad Kumar to continue his training in Ukraine for three months along with his coach.

Wrestling:

Rs. 93,555 which was already approved for Vinesh Phogat's participation at the Gran Premio De Espana Wrestling tournament where she won the gold medal, was ratified at the meeting.

Boxing:

About Rs. 3 lakhs was sanctioned for four boxers Sonia Lather, Manoj Kumar, Gaurav Solanki and Shiva Thapa to purchase boxing equipment. This is over and above the equipment being provided to the Indian boxing team under Annual Calendar for Training and Competition.

Athletics:

Lili Das, who has represented India in 800 metres and 1500 metres, was dropped from the TOPS scheme on grounds of recent below-par performance. The committee is open to taking her back into the scheme, as she is reasonably young and is seen as a promising talent going forward.

Men's shot put athlete Om Prakash Karhana and 400 metres relay runner Mohan Kumar were also dropped from the scheme on grounds of recent below-par performance.

All expenses for training and competition taking place outside India include air ticket, visa and medical insurance.

The Target Olympic Podium Scheme is a flagship program of the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports which is a scheme to provide assistance to India's top athletes.