

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS
(DEPARTMENT OF SPORTS)
LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION No.67
ANSWERED ON 07/02/2023**

Appointment of Sportspersons in Wrestling Federation of India

***67. PROF. SOUGATA RAY:**

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

(a) whether the leading wrestlers staged protest/ dharna at Jantar Mantar seeking the removal of President of Wrestling Federation of India;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) the details of action taken by the Government to redress their issues; and

(d) the reasons for not appointing sportspersons in Wrestling Federation of India?

**ANSWER
THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS
(SHRI ANURAG SINGH THAKUR)**

(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. *67 TO BE ANSWERED ON 07/02/2023 REGARDING “APPOINTMENT OF SPORTSPERSONS IN WRESTLING FEDERATION OF INDIA” ASKED BY PROF. SOUGATA RAY, HON’BLE MEMBER OF LOK SABHA.

(a) to (c): Yes, Sir. Some wrestlers staged protest/ dharna levelling allegations of sexual harassment, arbitrariness and mismanagement in the functioning of the Wrestling Federation of India (WFI).

As the matter pertained to the well-being of the athletes, the Ministry immediately took note of the allegations and instructed the Executive Committee of WFI to abstain, as an interim measure, from administering and managing the day-to-day activities of the Federation. Further, as a purely interim measure, the Government has appointed an Oversight Committee headed by Ms. M.C. Mary Kom, Major Dhyanchand Khel Ratna Awardee and Olympic Medallist, to enquire into the allegations of sexual misconduct, harassment and / or intimidation, financial irregularities and administrative lapses, levelled by prominent sportspersons; and to undertake day-to-day administration of WFI.

The six-member Oversight Committee of WFI includes four sportspersons as its members, out of which Shri Yogeshwar Dutt and Ms. Babita Phogat are prominent wrestlers.

(d): National Sports Development Code of India 2011 (Sports Code) provides for representation of at least 25% prominent sportspersons in the National Sports Federations (NSFs). The WFI has informed that in the last elections held for the Executive Committee of WFI, out of 23 members elected as members, 7 were former wrestlers and 1 was a coach.
