

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS
DEPARTMENT OF SPORTS**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 880
TO BE ANSWERED ON 25.07.2023**

Sexual Harassment of Women Wrestler

**880. SHRI THOMAS CHAZHIKADAN:
SHRI COSME FRANCISCO CAITANO SARDINHA:
SHRI B.B. PATIL:
SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH:**

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

(a) whether the Government is aware of the recent allegations of sexual harassment and exploitations of women wrestlers by the sportspersons against the officials of Wrestling Federation of India;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government in this regard;

(c) the number of complaints of sexual mistreatment received from the sportspersons during each of the last three years and status of these cases;

(d) whether these cases were pursued by the State and if so, the percentage of such cases which were pursued and the status of these cases during the said period;

(e) whether the Government has further taken steps towards addressing the concerns raised by women athletes and if so, the details thereof;

(f) the details of the present safeguards and redressal mechanisms in place at training institutions for women athletes; and

(g) whether the Government has constituted any committee or expert committee to enquire about the charges made concerning sexual abuse and demanding of sexual favours by office bearers and coaches in sports training institutes in the country and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER
THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS
[SHRI ANURAG SINGH THAKUR]

(a) & (b) Sir, some wrestlers had staged protest/ dharna in January, 2023, levelling allegations of sexual harassment, arbitrariness and mismanagement in the functioning of the Wrestling Federation of India (WFI). As the matter pertained to the wellbeing of the athletes, the Government immediately took note of the allegations and instructed the Executive Committee of the WFI to abstain, as an interim measure, from administering and managing the day-to-day activities of the WFI. Further, as a purely interim measure, an Oversight Committee headed by Ms. M.C. Mary Kom, Major Dhyanchand Khel Ratna Awardee and Olympic Medallist, was appointed by the Government on 23.1.2023 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 the WFI.

At present, the affairs of the WFI, including the selection of athletes and making of entries for participation of sportspersons in international events, are being managed by that Ad Hoc Committee constituted by the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) until such time as the newly elected Executive Committee takes charges.

(c) & (d) The National Sports Federations (NSFs) are self-regulated autonomous bodies registered under the Societies Registration Act, 1860, Companies Act etc. and are governed by their own constitution and have their internal mechanism to redress the grievances/ complaints filed with them by sportspersons.

Based on the information provided about complaints of sexual harassment during the last three years, and the current year by the IOA and all the presently recognized NSFs, four NSFs have reported

complaints of sexual harassment, details of which are given in the Annexure.

(e) to (g) Provisions of the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) (POSH) Act, 2013 are applicable to NSFs and other sports organizations, including those under the Central Government and the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations, as applicable to any entity defined in the Act. The NSFs and other sports organizations are bound to take action in terms of the extant legal provisions in the cases of sexual harassment reported to them.

On its part, the Ministry has written to the IOA and the NSFs from time-to-time take measures for implementation to provisions relating to prevention of sexual harassment of women in sports. The Ministry has also asked the IOA and the NSFs to sensitize their office bearers, coaches, administrative staff, and players about the prevention of sexual harassment of women in sports.

The Sports Authority of India (SAI), an autonomous body under the administrative control of the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports, has issued specific instructions to ensure a safe and positive environment by making all stakeholders aware that there is an expectation, at all times, of appropriate behavior consistent with the core values of sportsmanship and appropriate moral conduct. In order to provide a safe environment in sports, the SAI also runs a 24*7 helpline for the players. The following measures have been advised to the NSFs:

- i. Women Coach to mandatorily be a part of the contingent with female athletes during Domestic/ International camps and competition exposures.**
- ii. Compliance Officer (Male & Female) to be appointed in all National Coaching Camps and Foreign Exposures. The roles and responsibilities of the Compliance Officer include communicating regularly with athletes and others to ensure that the guidelines are being followed as well as enforce the Standard Operating Procedure on prevention of sexual harassment in sports. The Compliance Officer, among other duties, should ensure that if any member reports a violation,**

the same should be reported earliest to the responsible authorities.

- iii. Pre-Camp Sensitization modules to be designed and presented to all athletes, coaches and support staffs together before commencement of any National Coaching Camp and Foreign Exposure.**
- iv. Increase the strength of women Coaches/Support Staff in National Coaching Camps by respective NSFs.**

ANNEXURE

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (c) & (d) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 880 TO BE ANSWERED ON 25/07/2023 ASKED BY SHRI THOMAS CHAZHIKADAN, SHRI COSME FRANCISCO CAITANO SARDINHA, SHRI B.B. PATIL AND SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH REGARDING SEXUAL HARASSMENT OF WOMEN WRESTLER

S.No	NSF	Year*	Number of complaints received	Number of complaints disposed of	Number of cases where inquiries have been completed	Number of cases where criminal case have been filed
1	Cycling Federation of India	2022	1	1	1	1
2	Archery Association of India	2022	1	1	1	Nil
3	All India Football Federation	2022	1	1	1	1
4	Amateur Kabaddi Federation of India	2022	1	1	1	1
5.	Wrestling Federation of India	2023	1	FIR was registered and chargesheet has since been filed in the court.		

*** Out of last three years**
