

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3153
ANSWERED ON:23.08.2006
BAN IMPOSED ON INDIAN WEIGHTLIFTERS FEDERATION
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Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Indian Weightlifters Federation plagued by positive dope tests has been banned as reported in The Hindustan Times dated July 22, 2006;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the number of times in the past the Indian weightlifters and other sportspersons were found positive in dope test alongwith the names of such sportspersons;
- (d) the action taken by the Union Government against the weightlifters, other sportspersons, coaches and the Indian Weightlifters Federation; and
- (e) the efforts made by the Union Government to prevent such incidents in future?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ AND YOUTH AFFAIRS & SPORTS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR)

- (a) & (b): The International Weightlifting Federation has imposed a ban on participation of Indian Weightlifters in international weightlifting events for a period of one year till March, 2007 along with a fine of US \$ 50,000. In case the fine is not paid, the ban will be extended for one more year till March, 2008.
- (c) Since the year 2000, 15 Indian sportspersons (10 weightlifters, 3 athletes, 1 badminton and 1 judo player) have tested positive for dope at the International level. The details are given in the Annex.
- (d) Disciplinary action against the sportspersons testing positive for dope is required to be taken by the concerned National/International Federation as per their rules and regulations and as per code of the International Olympic Committee (IOC). Accordingly, the sanctions have been imposed on the sportspersons as per details given in reply to part (c) above. In addition, the Sports Authority of India (SAI) has taken disciplinary action against a few coaches under their administrative control. SAI has also debarred weightlifters under the ban period from training at SAI centers.
- (e) It is primarily the responsibility of the Indian Olympic Association and the NSFs to take steps to prevent doping incidents. However, the Government of India and SAI have made serious efforts to keep our sportspersons away from use of any kind of prohibited drugs through dissemination of information. During the coaching camps, strict instructions are given to the coaches attached with campers to educate and regularly counsel the players about the prohibited drugs. Apart from this, Sports Medicine Doctors at Netaji Subhash National Institute of Sports (NSNIS), Patiala and other Regional Centers Conduct lectures to educate the players in this regard. At the time of commencement of camps, each player is provided with documents, brochure etc., about prohibited substances. The list of banned drugs, and placards for educating the players, are put in the rooms of the campers. Rooms and belongings of the players are also searched and checked at regular periods to see that no prohibited drugs are used.

Government of India is a contributing member of World Anti Doping Agency (WADA) and have also signed the Copenhagen Declaration as an affirmation of the Country's determination to fight the menace of doping in sports.