

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:69
ANSWERED ON:02.03.2010
GUIDELINES ON OFFICE BEARERS OF NSF
Ramasubbu Shri S.,Shekhar Shri Neeraj

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

- (a) whether the Government has issued any guidelines on the tenure of the office bearers of the National Sports Federations (NSFs);
- (b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the salient features thereon;
- (c) whether there are reports of violation of such guidelines by various NSFs including the provision which restricts contesting of elections as office bearers beyond two terms and such violations having been indicated by various courts; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government including the remedial measures taken to ensure compliance of guidelines laid down for the NSFs in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (DR. M.S. GILL)

(a) to (d): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.69 FOR REPLY ON 2-3-2010 BY SHRI NEERAJ SHEKHAR AND SHRI S.S. RAMASUBBU REGARDING GUIDELINES ON OFFICE BEARERS OF NSF.

(a) & (b): Yes, Madam. The Government guidelines for recognition of National Sports Federations (NSFs), issued in 1975, prescribe that office bearers of NSFs shall not hold office consecutively for more than two terms or eight years. Further, it stipulates that an office bearer to be re-elected for the second term, should not have secured less than two third votes of the members. The definition of office bearers for the purpose of these guidelines, includes the President, the Secretary/Secretary General and the Treasurer.

(c) & (d): Due to strong opposition to the implementation of tenure restriction, from the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) and NSFs, the said instructions have been kept in abeyance since October, 2001. As such, the tenure restriction is not being applied to IOA and NSFs at present. However, it is a fact that office bearers in many NSFs; including IOA, are continuing beyond the two tenure limit. In a few cases, affected parties have challenged such continuation in various Courts of Law. In one such case, the Court has passed an injunction against office bearers who have crossed the two tenure limit, from holding the office. In another case also, where the action of a federation, of removing tenure restriction from their constitution was challenged, the Court made several observations, including the need for Government to enforce its own guidelines more effectively. In addition to these cases, recently in a Public Interest Litigation several issues concerning mismanagement of NSFs, including flagrant violation of the tenure restrictions, have been raised.

In view of the above developments, the Government is seized of the concerns raised from various quarters, on the tenure issue, and is in the process of reviewing the whole matter, in consultation with all stakeholders, including sports bodies.