

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:181
ANSWERED ON:23.11.2010
UNETHICAL PRACTICES IN SPORTS
Chowdhury Shri Adhir Ranjan

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

- (a) whether a number of sports such as cricket, football, tennis, etc., are getting increasingly commercialised due to the large scale involvement of the corporate sector;
- (b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (c) whether attention of the Government has also been drawn to the reported unethical practices including doping and match fixing allegedly being resorted to in certain games at international levels;
- (d) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (e) whether the Government/sports bodies propose to take steps to ensure that commercialisation and unethical practices do not interfere with the professional conduct of the sports; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

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

(a) to (f) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (f) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.181 FOR REPLY ON 23.11.2010 BY SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY REGARDING UNETHICAL PRACTICES IN SPORTS

(a) & (b): Yes, Madam. In India, mainly Cricket and Golf are commercialized. Government is concerned with the development of amateur sports, whereas the commercial formats are essentially corporate driven. Unlike recognized national sports federations, which are entitled to custom duty and income tax exemptions, for promoting amateur sports, commercial sports entities, have to run like normal business entities. However, when it comes to sportspersons, the distinction between amateur and professional is fast disappearing, as in most disciplines they are allowed to participate in both formats.

(c) & (d): Yes, Madam. Government is aware of match fixing allegations at the international level, which mainly relates to cricket. The International Cricket Council (ICC) has an Anti Corruption and Security Unit (ACSU) which investigates into any allegation of corrupt practice in the game, including match fixing. In the past, ICC has imposed life ban on international players found guilty of match-fixing. Allegations of match fixing are also investigated into by the government investigation agencies, as and when there is prima facie evidence to that effect.

With regard to doping in sports, the Government has been at the forefront in fighting the menace. It has set up a National Anti Doping Agency (NADA) for test planning and result management, and promoting awareness against doping. NADA has disciplinary and appellate panels that look into cases where sportspersons are tested positive for use of prohibited substances. While the disciplinary panel is headed by a retired District Judge, the Appellate Panel is headed by a retired High Court Judge. The NADA code prescribes heavy penalty against athletes found guilty of using prohibited substances to enhance their sporting performance, which includes life ban on participating in future sports competitions.

In addition, a National Dope Testing Laboratory (NDTL) has been established, which is a world class Laboratory accredited by the World Anti Doping Agency. NDTL is responsible for testing dope samples, apart from undertaking dope related research.

(e) & (f): Government has taken several initiatives to encourage good governance practices in sports management in the country, which include introduction of annual recognition system for National Sports Federations (NSFs), imposition of tenure and age limit on office bearers of NSFs, declaration of NSFs, including IOA, as public authorities under the Right to Information Act, etc.