

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2202

ANSWERED ON:23.11.2010

TENURE OF OFFICE BEARERS OF SPORTS FEDERATIONS

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

- (a) whether the continued occupation of the post of office bearers by same individuals in same /multiple sports federations has led to decline in the quality of sports in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (c) the number of Chief and other office bearers of the National Sports Federations (NSFs) are more than 70 years of age, Federation-wise; category-wise alongwith the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (d) the time by which the Chiefs of NSFs have occupied the post in their office' NSFs wise;
- (e) whether the Government had come out with guidelines in fixing the age limit and tenures of Chiefs and other office bearers of National Sports Federations (NSFs); and
- (f) if so, the details thereof and the time by which such guidelines come into force?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI PRATIK PRAKASHBAPU PATIL)

(a) to(f): As part of the good governance practices, the International Olympic Committee enforces a tenure limit on it's members and office bearers. While the IOC president can hold office for maximum 12 years, the other office bearers of IOC are allowed maximum of two consecutive terms of four years each followed by a cooling off period of two years. The IOC charter also provides a retirement age of 70 years.

The Government guidelines for Assistance to National Sports Federations, which were issued in 1975, also contained a tenure limit of 8 years but were not complied with by most National Sports Federations. In 2001, the tenure guidelines had to be kept in abeyance due to stiff resistance by sports bodies. However, subsequent to Public Interest Litigation filed in Delhi High Court, and on directive from the Hon'ble Court to take immediate stand on the enforcement of Government guidelines pertaining to tenure limits kept in abeyance since 2001, the Government has restored the tenure limits and imposed an age limit of 70 years on members of all recognized National Sports Federations (NSFs), including the Indian Olympic Association vide its order dated 1-5-2010. This order is based on international best practices, including those adopted by the International Olympic Committee.

The Government orders of 1-5-2010 are applicable to the elections to be held after the issue of these orders. The Presidents of some federations like National Rifle Association of India, Cycling Federation of India, Archery Association of India, Kayaking & Canoeing Federation of India, etc. have crossed the age limit of 70 years and they will have to follow these guidelines when the elections in these federations become due. Badminton Association of India and Swimming Federation of India, which held their elections after the issue of these guidelines and did not comply with it, have been directed to amend their constitution to become compliant with Government guidelines and to hold fresh elections.