

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4305
ANSWERED ON:20.12.2011
SPONSORING OF OLYMPIC GAMES
Hazari Shri Maheshwar ;Jardosh Smt. Darshana Vikram

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

- (a) whether the London Olympic Games Committee (LOGC) has been asked to reject DOW chemicals company from sponsorship of the Olympic Games to be held in 2012 in view of the fact that the said company was responsible for the Bhopal gas tragedy in Madhya Pradesh;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the reaction of the LOGC thereto?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI AJAY MAKEN)

(a)to(c): London 2012 will be the first Olympic Games after Dow Chemical Company signed the agreement with the International Olympic Committee (IOC) in 2010. It has been declared the official World-Wide Olympic Partner and the official Chemistry Company for the Olympic Movement upto 2020. Moreover, it is `learnt' that as part of the Agreement with IOC, Dow will partner the IOC and the National Olympic Committees around the world, including India. Therefore, the Dow – IOC Agreement is likely to have an impact on the activities of the IOA directly.

The Government has asked the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) to raise the issue immediately and emphatically with the International Olympic Committee (IOC) and London Organising Committee for Olympic Games (LOCOG) in the context of the sensitivities of the victims and the public at large, associated with Bhopal Gas Tragedy, 1984 and since the association of Dow Chemicals Company militates against the high ethical principles represented by the Olympic Movement and enshrined in the Olympic Charter. The Government has also advised the Indian Olympic Association to study the Charter of International Olympic Committee and examine the legal provisions to deal with such situations and obtain appropriate legal advice in the matter.