

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:89

ANSWERED ON:20.03.2012

INVOLVEMENT OF DOW CHEMICALS IN LONDON OLYMPIC GAMES

Hazari Shri Maheshwar ;Panda Shri Prabodh

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

- (a) whether DOW Chemicals responsible for the Bhopal gas leak disaster has been nominated as the official sponsor of the London Olympic Games, 2012;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (c) whether several International and Indian Organisations including the Indian Olympic Association have lodged protests in this regard with the Organising Committee of the London Olympics;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the response of the Organising Committee thereto;
- (e) whether the Indian Government has also taken up this matter at the diplomatic level; and
- (f) if so, the response thereto?

**Answer**

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

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) to (f) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.89 FOR 20-03-2012 ASKED BY SHRI MAHESHWAR HAZARI & SHRI PRABODH PANDA REGARDING INVOLVEMENT OF DOW CHEMICALS IN LONDON OLYMPIC GAMES

(a) to (d): M/s. Dow Chemicals is one of the sponsors for the forthcoming London Olympics, 2012. Ministry has received representations from various quarters for taking up the matter with organizers of London Olympics, 2012 for removing Dow Chemicals from the sponsorship of the Olympic Games, 2012.

The Ministry had advised the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) to take up the matter emphatically with International Olympic Committee (IOC) and London Organising Committee of the Olympic & Paralympic Games (LOCOG) to draw their attention to the sensitivities of the victims of Bhopal Gas tragedy, 1984. It was pointed out to IOA that the association of IOC with Dow Chemicals Company militates against the high ethical principles represented by the Olympic movement. IOA took up the matter with IOC and LOCOG conveying India's concerns on this sensitive issue and asking them to consider the decision about the sponsorship by Dow Chemicals for London Olympics, 2012.

In response to IOA's taking up the matter with IOC, the latter replied stating that Dow Chemicals had no connection with the Bhopal tragedy since Dow did not have any ownership stake in Union Carbide until 16 years after the accident and 12 years after the US \$ 470 million compensation agreement was approved by the Supreme Court of India.

The Ministry also took up the matter directly with IOC urging it to go beyond lesser considerations, and in the larger interests of the ideals of human rights, compassion and solidarity, cancel the sponsorship of Dow Chemicals for the London Olympics, 2012, thereby apart from assuaging the feelings of millions of people, send a strong message the world over, for upholding the noble ideals of the Olympic Movement. However, IOC has reiterated their earlier stand on the issue.

(e) & (f): The matter at the diplomatic level has been raised by the High Commission of India in London with the LOCOG highlighting the enormous public discontent in India over the continued suffering of the victims of the Bhopal Gas leak tragedy. Further the Government of India raised the issue with its United Kingdom counterpart. The United Kingdom Government, while expressing sorrow for the victims of the tragedy, has said that the issue of Dow Chemicals sponsorship of the London Olympic Games was arranged and done by the International Olympic Committee.