

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3110  
ANSWERED ON:24.04.2012  
COMPLAINTS AGAINST SPORTS FEDERATIONS  
Nagar Shri Surendra Singh;Verma Shri Sajjan Singh

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

- (a) whether the Government has received any complaints with regard to National Sports Federations;
- (b) if so, the nature of such complaints received alongwith the action taken thereon during each of the last three years and the current year, federation-wise;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to provide financial assistance in the next financial year to those sports federations which have submitted their accounts and decide to appoint former national and international level sportspersons on the post of president and secretary etc. in the sports federations;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether the Government has prescribed or proposes to prescribe any standard to control the sports organisations; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF THE STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) IN THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS & SPORTS (SHRI AJAY MAKEN)

(a) & (b) Madam, complaints of various types, non-compliance of Government guidelines, inter-alia concerning as well dispute of election matters are received by the Government from time to time, with regard to the National Sports Federations (NSFs). The NSFs are autonomous registered bodies and the Government normally does not interfere in their functioning. Hence, year-wise and Federations-wise data of complaints is not maintained. The Government have taken various measures in order to bring transparency, accountability and good governance in the functioning of the NSFs to minimize the complaints of misappropriation of Government funds, non-compliance of government guidelines with regard to age and tenure of the office bearers of the NSFs, prevent the unethical practices in sports such as doping, sexual harassment of women in sports, age fraud, etc. The steps taken, inter-alia include the following:

(i) Compliance to the directions of the Government by the NSFs has been made mandatory to receive government recognition and thereby become eligible to receive financial as well as other forms of assistance from Government of India such as railway concessions, income tax exemption, custom duty exemption, etc. and to derive the authority to perform the public functions of selecting and deputing the national teams for participation in recognized continental and world level international sports competitions which involve representation of member countries and to represent the country in international associations, events, meets, conferences, etc. No National Sports Federation has been given annual recognition by the Government which has not adhered to these instructions for the elections held after the issue of these guidelines of 1-5-2010.

(ii) Guidelines have been issued to all the NSFs to ensure that no Government servant is allowed to hold any elective office in any sports association/federation for a term of more than four years, or for one term, whichever is less.

(iii) Submission of annual audited accounts has been made an essential condition for annual renewal of the recognition and to receive financial assistance from the Government.

(c) & (d) Financial assistance is released to the NSFs on submission of annual audited accounts of the last financial year, Utilization certificate relating to the previous grants released by the Government and the report of the earlier event conducted. However, appointment of former national and international level sportspersons on the post of president and secretary, etc. in the sports federations has not been made mandatory for releasing the grants to the NSFs.

(e) & (f) No, Madam. The Government does not prescribe or propose to control the sports organizations. However, in order to bring transparency and accountability in the functioning of the national sports bodies, Government has formulated a regulatory framework with the objective of promoting good governance among sports bodies. The Draft of the National Sports Bill has been placed in the public domain for pre-legislative stakeholders consultations, the salient features of which are as under :

(i) Central Government support for development and promotion of sports including financial & other support for preparation of National teams, athletes' welfare measures and promoting ethical practices in sports including elimination of doping practices, fraud in age

and sexual harassment in sports, Rights and obligations of the Indian Olympic Association and National Sports Federations (including adoption of basic universal principles of good governance and professional management of sports).

- (ii) Participation of athletes in the management/decision making of the concerned NSF and the Indian Olympic Association through the Athletes Advisory Council.
- (iii) Duties and responsibilities of the Sports Authority of India and the Government of India, which have been clearly defined.
- (iv) Mechanism for sports dispute settlement and establishment of a Dispute Settlement and Appellate Tribunal.
- (v) Greater autonomy to National Sports Federations and dilution of control of Government over the National Sports Federations.
- (vi) Bring National Sports Federations under Right to Information Act, 2005 with certain exclusion clauses for protecting personal /confidential information relating to athletes.
- (vii) Specific provision has been inserted in the anti-doping clause to exclude the administering by the National Anti Doping Agency of those provisions of the World Anti Doping Agency Code to which the International Federation of the Sport is not subject.
- (viii) A duty has been enjoined upon the coaches, guardians and other support personnel to prevent unethical practices in sports such as doping and fraud of age.

Specific provisions have also been made to ensure that National Sports Federation, the National Olympic Committee, the Sports Authority of India adopt or undertake measures not only to prohibit sexual harassment at workplace for sports but also provide appropriate conditions for women in respect of work, leisure, health and hygiene. Other measures have been provided for setting up a complaint mechanism for redressal of complaints with a committee headed by a woman, or a special counselor, whilst adhering to the principle of confidentiality.