

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:7485
ANSWERED ON:22.05.2012
IRREGULARITIES DURING CWG
Ray Shri Rudramadhab

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

- (a) whether the International Olympics Committee (IOC) has sought the details of action taken against the former President of Indian Olympic Association (IOA) for his involvement in irregularities during the Common Wealth Games, 2010 held in New Delhi;
- (b) if so, the response of the IOA and the Government thereto;
- (c) whether the Government has no control over such sports bodies who represent/organise international events;
- (d) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the steps being taken to protect the honour and image of the country on account of certain corrupt officials/bodies?

Answer

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

(a) Yes, Madam. The International Olympic Committee (IOC) had sought information from the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) regarding the charges filed against him.

(b) The IOA had informed the IOC that he is on bail and will not represent the IOA; he will not be taking part in the IOA activities for a long time and he will not exert any authority on behalf of the IOA.

(c) & (d): The National Sports Federations (NSFs) are autonomous bodies registered under the Societies Registration Act. Government do not interfere in the day to day functioning of the NSFs. However, as and when any cause of financial irregularity, misappropriation of funds etc. are reported, suitable action is taken by the Government in the matter.

In addition, the Government has issued guidelines imposing age and tenure limit in respect of office bearers of National Sports Federations, including the Indian Olympic Association, which has further been reiterated in the National Sports Development Code of India, 2011, which was issued on 31.1.2011. As per the guidelines, the Government has, inter-alia, provided the following age and tenure limits in respect of office bearers of the NSFs:

- i. The President of any recognized National Sports Federation, including the Indian Olympic Association can hold the office for a maximum period of twelve years with or without break.
- ii. The Secretary (or by whatever other designation such as Secretary General or General Secretary by which he is referred to) and the Treasurer of any recognized National Sports Federation, including the IOA, may serve a maximum of two successive terms of four years each after which a minimum cooling off period of four years will apply to seek fresh election to either post.
- iii. The President, the Secretary and the Treasurer of any recognized National Sports Federation, including the Indian Olympic Association, shall cease to hold that post on attaining the age of 70 years.
- iv. The conditions (i) to (iii) above will be subject to the proviso that it shall not disturb the current tenure of any member, provided he/she has been properly elected to the post. In order words, the tenure condition will become operative for all future elections as they may be conducted in future in their normal course.

Compliance to the directions of the Government by the NSFs has been made mandatory to received government recognition and thereby become eligible to received 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.

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.

(e) The Investigating agencies have registered a number of cases against concerned officials/agencies involved in the Commonwealth Games. In some cases, charge-sheets have also been filed.