

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:737
ANSWERED ON:14.08.2012
ENTRY IN LONDON OLYMPIC GAMES, 2012
Karwariya Shri Kapil Muni

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

- (a) whether the Indian Olympic Association and the Gymnastics Federation of India had recommended the name of gymnast Ashish Kumar to the International Gymnastics Federation for a wild card entry;
- (b) if so, the reasons as to why the said gymnast has not been given wild card entry for London Olympic even after he won the medal in Asian and Commonwealth Games;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to inquire into the matter and punish the responsible officials/sports authorities in this regard;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the time by which action is likely to be taken against the person responsible for the same; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

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

(a) The Gymnastics Federation of India had recommended to the Federation of International Gymnastics (FIG) the name of Gymnast Ashish Kumar for a wild card entry citing his past achievements.

(b) The wild card entry to the London Olympic Games was decided in accordance with the Olympic qualification rules specifically issued by FIG for London, 2012 Games. As per rules, only 3 categories of wild card were permitted for Men's Artistic Gymnastics events. These categories are – (i) Tripartite Commission Place (1), (ii) Host Country Place (1) and (iii) Continental representation (2).

The Tripartite Commission Place can only be allotted to National Olympic Committees (NOCs) with an average of six (6) or less athletes (all sports) at the last two editions of the Olympic Games. Since India had a larger participation in the previous Olympic Games, the Tripartite Commission place could not be allotted to Ashish Kumar of India. It was eventually allotted to Bangladesh.

India not being the host country, there was no question of India getting Host Country place.

As per the FIG qualification rules, the minimum Continental representation should be at least 2 places for Africa, America, Asia and Europe (including the Host Country) and 1 place for Oceania. If the Continental representation is not fulfilled, then the FIG grants wild cards to ensure the Continental representation.

With China, Japan and Korea having qualified for the Olympics with full team of 5 gymnasts each, Asia was considered represented and the place for Continental representation could not have been given to an Asian country. Africa was the only continent which could not qualify under the normal route and hence one gymnast each from Egypt and Tunisia (African nations) were allocated wild card for continental representation. Ashish Kumar being not eligible for any of the above wild cards was not able to make to the list of London 2012 qualifiers. The qualification for the Olympics is based solely on FIG qualification rules. These rules do not consider the results of Commonwealth Games or the Asian Games for qualifying for participation in London Olympics, 2012.

(c) to (e) : Does not arise in view of (b) above.