

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:835

ANSWERED ON:14.08.2012

RESTRICTIONS ON BROADCASTERS DURING LONDON OLYMPIC

Mahtab Shri Bhartruhari

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the London Olympic Organising Committee has issued any News Access Rules restricting Indian Broadcasters to cover the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor along with the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (c) the details of the guidelines issued in this regard;
- (d) whether the Government/News Broadcasters Association (NBA) has received requests from Indian broadcasters to liberalise these guidelines in the recent past; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the action taken/being taken by the Government/NBA in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C. M. JATUA)

(a) to (c): Prasar Bharati has informed that the London Organising Committee for the 2012 Olympic and Paralympics Games has not issued any News Access Rules restricting Indian Broadcasters. However, the International Olympic Committee (IOC) have issued News Access Rules on 26th August, 2011 applicable for the Broadcast of the London 2012 Olympic Games, 27th July to 12 August, 2012. These News Access Rules, which are applicable to broadcasters all over the world, are available at http://www.olympic.org/Documents/Games_London_2012/IOC_News_Access_RulesLondon_2012_Eng.pdf.

(d) & (e): The News Broadcasters Association(NBA) have informed that they have received News Access Rules from ESPN Star Sports, as set out by IOC for the Olympic Games 2012, with a request that these may be circulated to Members. NBA Members have expressed concern and considered the IOC News Access Rules restrictive and even contrary to the prevailing legal position under Indian Law in several respects. NBA is in favour of following self-imposed parameters on use of third-party audio-video footage, in the interest of meaningful news-reportage for the public, within the framework of Indian Law; and to that end NBA Members have adopted news access norms for various sports and other events voluntarily. However, keeping in view the international importance of London Olympics 2012, NBA has advised its Members to follow the news access rules applicable for the broadcast of the London 2012 Olympics Games for the present.