

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:345

ANSWERED ON:18.12.2012

SUSPENSION OF INDIAN OLYMPIC ASSOCIATION

Gaikwad Shri Eknath Mahadeo;Singh Alias Pappu Singh Shri Uday

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

- (a) whether the International Olympic Committee (IOC) has recently suspended the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) for alleged irregularities in the conduct of its elections;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether this suspension has far reaching impact on the performance of sportspersons in the country;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to revoke the suspension of IOA by IOC at an early date and address the issues concerning management of IOA in an effective manner ?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS(SHRI JITENDRA SINGH)

(a) to (e): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement referred to in reply to parts (a) to (e) of Starred Question No.345 to be answered on 18.12.2012 regarding 'Suspension of Indian Olympic Association' by Shri Eknath M. Gaikwad and Shri Uday Singh

(a) & (b): The International Olympic Committee (IOC) has, at its Executive Board meeting on 4.12.2012, taken a decision to suspend the Indian Olympic Association (IOA). The reasons cited by the IOC for suspension of IOA are as follows:

- i) Failure of the IOA to comply with the Olympic Charter and its statutes
- ii) Failure of the IOA to enforce the basic principles of ethics and good governance required under the Olympic Charter.
- iii) As a protective measure against government interference in the IOA's election process.

(c) & (d): With the orders of suspension by the IOC, IOA will no longer be entitled to exercise any activity or right, including financial support conferred upon it by the Olympic Charter of the IOC until the suspension is lifted by the Executive Board.

The decision to suspend the IOA is not likely to have an impact on Indian participation in international sporting events in the immediate future, as the next Asian Games and Commonwealth Games are to be held in 2014 and the next Olympic Games in 2016. The suspension, therefore, should not cause any worry to our sportspersons and should not adversely affect their performance.

(e) The Government is committed to take all possible measures to protect the interests of the Indian sportspersons so that they can continue to participate in international sports meets under the Indian National Flag. The Government has already started discussions/consultations with all concerned stakeholders including National Sports Federations, eminent sportspersons and members of the civil society in order to find a way out of the situation that has been created by the directives of IOC. The Government is also open to having discussions with IOC/IOA to resolve the issue in the interest of players.