

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:193

ANSWERED ON:11.03.2013

EXCLUSION OF WRESTLING FROM OLYMPIC GAMES

Das Gupta Shri Gurudas;Ram Shri Purnmasi

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

- (a) whether the International Olympic Committee (IOC) has decided to drop wrestling from Olympics 2020;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (c) whether the Government has discussed the matter with the wrestling federations of other countries;
- (d) if so, the details and the outcome thereof; and
- (e) the other initiatives taken by the Government to take up the matter with IOC to reconsider this decision?

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 REFERED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF STARRED QUESTION NO.193 TO BE ANSWERED ON 11.03.2013 REGARDING EXCLUSION OF WRESTLING FROM OLYMPIC GAMES BY SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA AND SHRI PURNMASI RAM

(a) : International Olympic Committee (IOC) Executive Board (EB) has at its meeting held on 12.02.2013 recommended 25 core sports for 2020 Olympic Games. The recommended sports are: athletics, rowing, badminton, basketball, boxing, canoeing, cycling, equestrian, fencing, football, gymnastics, weightlifting, handball, hockey, judo, aquatics, modern pentathlon, taekwondo, tennis, table tennis, shooting, archery, triathlon, sailing and volleyball. The EB has recommended that wrestling, governed by the International Federation of Associated Wrestling Styles (FILA), not be included in the said list of core sports. Wrestling will now join the seven shortlisted sports – baseball/softball, karate, roller sports, sport climbing, squash, wakeboarding and wushu – vying for inclusion in the 2020 Olympic programme as an additional sport.

The eight sports are scheduled to make presentations to the Executive Board at its meeting in St. Petersburg, Russia, in May. The EB will select which of the eight sports to recommend to the 125th IOC Session for inclusion as an additional sport in the 2020 programme.

(b) to (e): The Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports has taken up the matter with the International Olympic Committee (IOC) requesting it to reconsider the decision of its Executive Board (EB) to exclude Wrestling from the 25 core sports it will propose for the 2020 Summer Olympic Games during the 125th IOC session to be held in September in Argentina and to retain Wrestling in the category of core sports for Olympic Games.

The Minister of State (IC) for Youth Affairs & Sports has also written to Sports Ministers of other countries, where wrestling is popular and wrestlers from which participated in London Olympics, 2012, requesting their support in the efforts of the Government of India to convince the IOC by way of taking up the matter with the IOC and impressing upon them to reconsider its decision and retain wrestling among the core sports in Olympic Games.

The Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports has also written to the Ministry of External affairs for enlisting its support and directing the Indian Ambassadors and High Commissioners in countries, whose wrestlers participated in London Olympics in 2012, to call on respective Sports Ministers and convince them to take up the matter with IOC in right earnest.

The Government will continue to make all efforts including building international opinion on this matter.