

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3313
ANSWERED ON:18.03.2013
TRANSPARENCY IN SPORTS BODIES
Thomas Shri P. T.

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes to bring more transparency and accountability in the functioning of various sports governing bodies;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the measures taken in this regard;
- (c) whether the Government considered to include more sports persons in sports governing bodies; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

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

(a) & (b) Madam, from time to time, the Government takes various steps to bring transparency and accountability in the functioning of the sports governing bodies. Government has issued guidelines imposing age and tenure limits in respect of office bearers of National Sports Federations, including those of the Indian Olympic Association, these have further been reiterated in the National Sports Development Code of India, 2011, which has been made effective from 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 is required 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.

Compliance to the directions of the Government by the NSFs has been made mandatory to receive government recognition and thereby become eligible to receive financial as well as other forms of assistance from the 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 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 which has not adhered to these instructions for the elections held after the issue of these Guidelines of 1-5-2010 has been given annual recognition by the Government.

All National Sports Federations receiving grants from the Government are financially accountable to the Government and are required to submit Utilization Certificates for the grants received from the Government. Fresh assistance is not sanctioned to NSFs that are in default with regard to submission of Utilization Certificates. To improve accountability, the Federations receiving a grant of more than Rs.1.00 crore are required to get their accounts audited by the Comptroller and Auditor General of India. It is also mandatory for all the NSFs to submit their annual audited accounts to the Registrar of Societies as per the Societies Registration Act. The Comptroller and Auditor General of India sends its directions to the NSFs, which have been audited by them, directly for removing the deficiencies pointed out in its report and to furnish a compliance report directly to the Comptroller and Auditor General of India. The Government also takes suitable steps as may be necessary for compliance of the directions and observations of the Comptroller and Auditor General.

Government has also formulated a regulatory framework with the objective of promoting good governance among sports bodies. The same has been placed in the public domain for pre-legislative stakeholder consultations.

(c) & (d) In order to ensure adequate representation of sports persons in the sports bodies, the Government has issued Guidelines for inclusion of sportspersons (say 25%) with voting rights in the management of NSFs.