

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:175
ANSWERED ON:19.08.2013
WRESTLING IN OLYMPIC GAMES
Antony Shri Anto;Patel Shri Bal Kumar

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 protested and taken up the matter with IOC and wrestling federations of other countries to restore the wrestling event to the schedule of Olympic events; and
- (d) if so, the details and the outcome thereof?

Answer

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

(a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF STARRED QUESTION NO.175 TO BE ANSWERED ON 19.08.2013 REGARDING WRESTLING IN OLYMPIC GAMES BY SHRI BAL KUMAR PATEL AND SHRI ANTO ANTONY

(a) to (d): International Olympic Committee (IOC) Executive Board (EB) at its meeting held on 12.02.2013 recommended that wrestling, governed by the International Federation of Associated Wrestling Styles (FILA), be not included in the list of core sports for the 2020 Olympics.

This decision of IOC has come as a surprise and is a very unfortunate development. The Government of India believes that this decision to exclude the sport of wrestling from the 25 core sports needs to be reconsidered in view of the fact that wrestling not only has universal appeal, but is also very affordable.

The Ministry has taken up the matter with the International Olympic Committee requesting it to reconsider its decision and retain wrestling in the category of core sports for Olympic Games. It has also requested India's member in the IOC to take up the matter strongly and make every effort to get wrestling included in the list of core sports.

Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Youth Affairs & Sports has also written to Sports Ministers of 70 countries, where wrestling is popular and wrestlers from which participated in London Olympics, 2012, requesting them to take up the matter with the IOC and impress upon it the need to retain wrestling among the core sports in Olympic Games.

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

Executive Board (EB) of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) at its meeting held at St. Petersburg (Russia) on 29th May 2013 recommended that baseball/softball, squash and wrestling be proposed to the 125th IOC Session for possible inclusion of one of these three as an additional sport on the Olympic programme for the 2020 Olympic Games.

The EB selected the three sports by secret ballot from a shortlist of eight that also include karate, roller sports, sport climbing, wakeboarding and wushu. The vote followed 30-minute presentations by each International Federation and an extensive evaluation by the Olympic Programme Commission to determine their potential added value to the Games.

The full IOC membership will meet for the 125th Session in Buenos Aires, Argentina from 7th to 10th September and will vote on which of the three sports to add to the programme of the Games of the XXXII Olympiad in addition to the 25 core sports.