GOVERNMENT OF INDIA YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:48
ANSWERED ON:09.12.2013
LAW TO CHECK CORRUPTION IN SPORTS
Patil Shri Sanjay Dina ;Raghavan Shri M. K.

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

- (a) whether the self-regulating structures within sports administrations are not adequate to protect honest sportspersons and uphold the highest integrity in the field of sports;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to bring a legislation to check corrupt practices in sports, like betting, age fraud, doping, match fixing and deliberate under performance; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

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

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.48 FOR REPLY ON 09.12.2013 BY SHRI M.K. RAGHAVAN & SHRI SANJAY DINA PATIL REGARDING LAW TO CHECK CORRUPTION IN SPORTS

- (a) Yes, Madam.
- (b) The various National Sports Federations (NSFs) are responsible for development and promotion of their respective sport discipline while ensuring fair play. The self-regulating structures set up by NSFs are not adequate to protect honest sportspersons and uphold the highest integrity in the field of sports, since the NSFs can only take disciplinary action against the sports-persons and others under their control.

NSFs do not have powers to take action against those who are not under their control like bookies, etc. NSFs also do not have powers for prosecution of the guilty. Beyond the mandate of NSFs, various agencies of the Government take action to curb the incidents of unfair practices in sports as per legal provisions.

(c) and (d) The Government has felt the need to enact a stand alone legislation to further strengthen the legal provisions to prevent and combat sporting frauds, affecting the integrity of sports and fair play like match fixing, deliberate under- performance, etc.

Accordingly, the Government has formulated a draft legislation named "The Prevention of Sporting Fraud Bill, 2013". The Draft Bill, in its present form, inter-alia, defines Sporting Fraud and sporting event, contains provisions of penalty to the offenders and deals with the issue of Jurisdiction of Courts to adjudicate the matter, etc.

The 'Prevention of Sporting Fraud Bill, 2013' has been placed on the website of the Ministry and has also been circulated to various stakeholders for seeking the comments of public and various stake-holders.

However, the said bill is not meant to have provisions for prevention of age fraud, doping and betting. Guidelines for prevention of age fraud in Sports have already been issued by the Government and are a part of the National Sports Development Code, 2011. National Anti Doping Agency (NADA), which is responsible for national anti- doping program, notified Anti-doping Rules in 2010. As far as betting in sports is concerned, the matter comes under the domain of State Governments.