

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1714

ANSWERED ON:16.12.2013

SUSPENSION OF IOA BY IOC

Dhurve Jyoti;Jindal Shri Naveen;Naranbhai Shri Kachhadia;Shukla Shri Balkrishna Khanderao Balu Shukla

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 election;
- (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 step taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to revoke the suspension of IOA by IOC?

Answer

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

(a) & (b): The International Olympic Committee (IOC) at its Executive Board meeting held on 4th December 2012 took a decision to suspend the Indian Olympic Association (IOA). Reasons cited by IOC for suspension of IOA were: IOA's failure to comply with the Olympic Charter and its statutes, failure to inform the IOC in a timely manner, and as a protective measure against Government interference in the IOA's election process.

(c) & (d): As a result of suspension of IOA by IOC, Indian sportspersons cannot participate in multi-disciplinary sporting events such as Olympic Games, Asian Games and Commonwealth Games under Indian National Flag. Since no Olympic Games, Asian Games & Commonwealth Games have been held since suspension of Indian Olympic Association and Indian athletes can participate in international events under the Olympic Council of Asia / IOC flag, there is no cause for worry about any far-reaching adverse impact on performance of Indian sportspersons.

(e): The Government has been taking all possible measures for early resolution of the matter relating to suspension of IOA by IOC so as to enable Indian sportspersons to participate in international sports meets under the Indian National Flag. The Government has been actively engaged with the IOC in this matter. A delegation led by Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Youth Affairs & Sports visited Lausanne (Switzerland) in May, 2013 for a meeting with representatives of IOC, in which a roadmap was agreed for paving way for lifting of suspension of IOA by IOC. IOA has, on its part, agreed to amend its constitution as per IOC's requirements and hold fresh elections in February next year, paving the way for removal of its suspension.