

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3040

ANSWERED ON:10.02.2014

CONDITION OF HOCKEY PLAYERS

Gangaram Shri Awale Jaywant;Reddy Shri Modugula Venugopala

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

(a) whether the Government has reviewed the working of Indian Hockey Federation (IHF) and Hockey India (HI) with a view to improve the condition of Indian hockey including players;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the measures taken by the Government to promote hockey; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to improve economic condition of hockey players and their families?

**Answer**

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

(a) & (b) Madam, an interim order was passed by the Hon'ble Supreme Court in August, 2010 directing Indian Olympic Association (IOA), Indian Hockey Federation (IHF) and Hockey India (HI) to hold discussion with the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports to sort out the disputes in the management.

The Government held meetings with the IOA, HI and IHF to reach an amicable solution in the matter. After several rounds of meetings with the officials of Indian Olympic Association, Hockey India and Indian Hockey Federation, the matter was referred to the IOA to suggest a compromise.

Meanwhile, on 11th March, 2011, the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India passed another interim order making IOA and HI responsible to select and field Indian hockey teams, both for men and women for the future international events.

Hockey India and Indian Olympic Association are responsible to select the Indian teams for international events. Hockey India is responsible to field Indian teams in international events as per the direction of the Hon'ble Supreme Court.

As of now, the Government of India has not accorded recognition either to IHF or the HI. However, the Internationale Federation of Hockey (FIH) recognizes Hockey India as the national body in India for hockey.

To improve the performance of hockey, the Government has taken various steps such as organizing coaching camps, engaging foreign coaches, etc. As a result, the performance of Indian Hockey teams has improved. Recently, the Sr. Women's team won Bronze Medal in world Cup in 2013, Jr. Men's team won JOHAR BHARU Cup in 2013, Sr. Women's team won Bronze Medal in Asia Cup in 2013 and the Sr. Men's team won Silver Medal in Asia Cup in 2013.

(c) Under the 'Scheme of Sports Fund For Pension to Meritorious Sports Persons', Indian sportspersons who have won gold, silver and bronze medals in Olympic Games, World Cup/World Championships, Asian Games, Commonwealth Games and Paralympic games and have attained the age of 30 years and have retired from active sports career are eligible for life pension. Under the Scheme of 'National welfare Fund for Sports Persons' lump sum ex-gratia assistance is given to outstanding ex-sportspersons or to their families, living in indigent circumstances.