

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:9
ANSWERED ON:24.02.2015
PARTICIPATION IN BADMINTON WORLD FEDERATION
Kodikunnil Shri Suresh;Reddy Shri Ch. Malla

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

- (a) whether the Badminton Association of India (BAI) recently sent three non-deserving Sports players to Iceland for participating in the Badminton World Federation violating international regulations;
- (b) if so, the name of these players who represented India in Iceland and the details of criteria formulated for selection of players in international events;
- (c) whether these players did not even play their first round matches in Iceland and gave easy walk over to their opponents;
- (d) if so, the reasons thereof; and
- (e) the action taken by the Government against all sport bodies particularly under BAI so that talented players get the opportunity to play in national and international events?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS
(SHRI SARBANANDA SONOWAL)

(a) to (d) Madam, recently there were reports in the media regarding sending of some players and a referee by the Badminton Association of India (BAI) for participation in an event held under the aegis of the Badminton World Federation (BWF). A report was sought from BAI which has informed that the event at Iceland held between 22-01-2015 to 25-01-2015 was a 4th category (lowest) event of BWF (International body for badminton). Only one state unit i.e. Punjab had sent three names for participation in the event. Accordingly, BAI forwarded the names of such players at their own cost. BAI has further informed that it subsequently come to their notice that players were not fit and their entries were withdrawn by BAI on 16-01-2015 i.e. well before the commencement of the event.

(e) Madam, National Sports Federations (NSFs) including BAI are Societies registered under Societies Act/ Companies Act and are autonomous in their functioning. This Ministry does not interfere in the day to day functioning of NSFs including BAI. Development and promotion of various disciplines of sports including, inter-alia, selection of players and teams to represent India in tournaments, conduct of selection trials, conduct of various State/National level tournaments, conduct of elections, affiliation of state units etc is the responsibility of the National Sports Federations (NSFs) concerned which are autonomous in their functioning. In order to bring in transparency in the selection of players, Government has issued instructions on 06-08-2014 to the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) & NSFs including BAI to place the following information on their website with regard to the international events held in India and abroad:-

- i. List of core probables and basis of their selection.
- ii. Details of coaching camps organized including venue, dates and list of participants.
- iii. Notification of selection criteria for such events well in advance along with the details of time and venue for selection.
- iv. List of the athletes selected.
- v. Details of athletes, support personnel and other officials sent to the event along with the amount paid to them towards air fare, boarding and lodging, local transportation, daily allowance etc. This is required to be placed on the website within 15 days of the conclusion of the event.
- vi. Performance criteria which formed the basis of selection, actual performance in terms of timing, distance, etc. and the position obtained by each athlete/team.