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Title: Regarding suspension imposed on Indian Olympic Association by International Olympic Committee.

SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB (CUTTACK): I would like to raise an important issue that concerns our athletes. Barely months after India came up with its best performance in the Olympic Games in London, the country is slapped with the suspension notice by the International Olympic Committee. This has put a question mark over the future of Olympic Sports in this country. Can IOC justify in penalizing the nation and its athletes for no fault of theirs? National Sports Board only seeks transparency and accountability from the Indian Olympic Association. The Government had proposed a sports code which bars from contesting elections those who are above 70 years of age and have completed two consecutive terms. In an order on dated September, 13, the Delhi High Court had directed the Indian Olympic Association to include the sports code in its election process. Certain questions need to be answered. Why did the Indian Olympic Association accommodated non-olympic sport bodies with voting rights which was against the Olympic charter? Why the adoption of basic universal principles of good governance of the Olympics and sport movements be not made mandatory for the Indian Olympic Association? Be it transparent elections, tenure limits, keeping corrupt officials out or representation of athletes in the management of sports? The charges of corruption in the conduct of the 2010 Commonwealth Games in Delhi which saw some going to jail had prompted the Sports Ministry to formulate a code.

Sir, while one respects the autonomy of national and international sports bodies, these should not turn into fiefdoms of select individuals. Should we withdraw like China only to come back stronger? China had withdrawn from Olympic Games in the summer Olympics in 1952 when IOC recognized Taiwan as Republic of China and returned in 1984 and stood fourth in the medal standing. It is high time to have a revamp of the Sports Administration in India.