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Title: The Minister of State of the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports made a statement regarding 'omission of sprinter Dutee Chand from Commonwealth Games Squad'.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI SARBANANDA SONOWAL): I would like to make a short Statement in this august House in response to Submissions made during 'Zero Hour' on 22nd July, 2014 by Shri B. Mahtab and some others regarding 'Omission of Sprinter Dutee Chand from Commonwealth Games Squad'. I had assured the House that the Government would provide all assistance to Dutee Chand to return to the track. ...(*Interruptions*)

माननीय अध्यक्ष : आप ले कर दीजिए।

*SHRI SARBANANDA SONOWAL: In accordance with the assurance given to the House, the Sports Authority of India (SAI) took several concrete steps for challenging the disqualification of Ms. Dutee Chand on the basis of IAAF Regulations on Female Hyperandrogenism before the Court of Arbitration of Sport (CAS), Lausanne, Switzerland. SAI had engaged Mr. Jim Bunting of Davies Ward Phillips & Vineberg LLP of Canada to represent Ms. Dutee Chand at the CAS pro bono. SAI has been providing all supporting costs and will continue to do so until the final decision is delivered by CAS. SAI has also connected with international experts to support Ms. Dutee Chand and strengthen SAI's current position on the discriminatory IAAF Regulations on Female Hyperandrogenism. SAI has also taken steps to reinstate her at the 'Center of Excellence' (COE), NIS Patiala, for her continued training.

I am happy to inform the House that in response to Ms. Dutee Chand's prayer that she should be allowed to participate in National events pending the final decision of CAS, the CAS on 18th December, 2014 has provisionally allowed her to compete at National and State level Tournaments. This would enable Ms. Dutee Chand to participate at National level events like the forthcoming National Games-2015 and other competitions organized by the Athletics Federation of India or its affiliated units. Meanwhile, efforts are being taken to expedite a final decision from CAS.

I would like to assure the House that we will leave no stone unturned in our fight for gender equality and non-discrimination in sports. We will continue to support Ms. Dutee Chand in the coming days. ...(*Interruptions*)

माननीय अध्यक्ष : भर्तृहरि जी, स्टेटमेंट के ऊपर प्रश्न नहीं किए जाते हैं।