

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

**Re. Situation arising out of suspension of Indian Olympic Association
(IOA) by International Olympic Committee (IOC)**

SHRI JAGAT PRAKASH NADDA (Himachal Pradesh): Sir, I call the attention of the Minister for Youth Affairs and Sports to the situation arising out of the suspension of the Indian Olympic Association by the International Olympic Committee.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI JITENDRA SINGH): Sir, the International Olympic Committee (IOC), in its Executive Board meeting on the 4th of December, 2012, had taken a decision to suspend the Indian Olympic Association (IOA). The reasons cited by the IOC are as follows:—

Failure of the IOA to comply with the Olympic Charter and its statutes.

Failure of the IOA to maintain fair play, transparency and ethical standards required under the Olympic Charter.

Alleged interference of Government leading to erosion of the autonomy of the IOC.

In a subsequent letter, dated the 6th December, 2012, the IOC has also not recognized the elections of the IOA, which were held on 5th December, 2012. It is clarified that these elections were held under the directions of the Delhi High Court in Civil Writ Petition No. 195/2010. The High Court had specifically directed that the elections should be held keeping in mind both the constitution of the IOA as well as the National Sports Development Code, 2011. The National Sports Development Code, 2011, hereinafter referred to as Sports Code, lays down certain age and tenure restrictions which are broadly similar to those in the constitution of the IOC itself. In this respect, the Sports Code does not, in any manner, violate the Olympic Charter.

With the orders of suspension of the IOA, the IOA will no longer be entitled to exercise any activity or right or be entitled to financial support from the IOC. As a corollary, since Indian teams to multi-disciplinary sports events are nominated by the IOA, the Indian teams will not be in a position to compete in such events under the Indian National Flag. Other International Sports Federations have also

been asked to examine whether there have been any malpractices in the elections of their associated bodies in India, and if any such malpractice is detected, to take action as may be necessary. The International Boxing Federation (AIBA) have since suspended the Indian Amateur Boxing Federation.

There is unlikely to be any immediate major impact on sports in India or to Indian sportspersons. The IOC as well as the Olympic Council of Asia have clarified that Indian sportspersons will still be able to participate in multi-disciplinary sports events but that they can do so under the flag of the IOC. It is likely that officials from the IOA will not be allowed to participate in such events.

The Government has initiated several measures to resolve the issues that have been created by the directions of the IOC. The main steps are:

The Government has clarified that where a sports federation has finalized its Annual Calendar of Training and Competition (ACTC), the training process will continue without a break during the current financial year.

The centres of the Sports Authority of India (SAI), which have been used by Indian athletes in the past will still be open to them as before.

The Government has requested the IOC as well as The International Boxing Federation (AIBA) for a dialogue to resolve the issues involved.

- (iv) The Government has started holding discussions with all stakeholders including the National Sports Federations, eminent sportspersons and members of the Civil Society in order to find a way out of the situation created by the directions of the IOC.

The decision to 'suspend the IOA is a very unfortunate development in Indian sports. Nevertheless, it will not have a major impact on Indian participation in international sporting events in the immediate future. Moreover, the next IOC sponsored event is the Second Asian Youth Games, which will be held in Nanjing, China, in August, 2013. The next Asian Games are in 2014 and the next Olympic Games only in 2016. The Government is confident that the issues between the IOC and the IOA can be resolved in time. The Government is committed to taking all possible measures to protect the interests of the Indian sportspersons and to ensure that they can participate in international sports events under the Indian National Flag.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, Mr. Jagat Prakash, Nadda, please put your question.

SHRI JAGAT PRAKASH NADDA: Sir, I have gone through the answer given by the Minister.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Put your questions in just two-three minutes.

SHRI JAGAT PRAKASH NADDA: Sir, I will have to explain a little. सर, मंत्री जी का जो answer है, उसमें उन्होंने हाई कोर्ट के एक जजमेंट का हवाला दिया है। Basically, the answer given by the Minister is confusing and, to some extent, it is misleading too.

समस्या कहीं और है और इलाज कहीं और हो रहा है। Problem यह है कि इंटरनेशनल ओलिम्पिक कमिटी एक ओलिम्पिक चार्टर के तहत सभी देशों में नेशनल ओलिम्पिक कमिटी को वर्क करने की इजाजत देती है और उसके लिए वह recognise करती है। इंटरनेशनल ओलिम्पिक कमिटी का यह कहना है कि नेशनल ओलिम्पिक कमिटी और स्पोर्ट्स फेडरेशन अपने सभी कार्यक्रमों को total autonomy में अपने आप तय करे, उसके नियम तय करे, उसके elections के rules तरह करे, उसका Code of Conduct तय करे और उसी के तहत वह अपने organizations को चलाए, ओलिम्पिक कमिटी को चलाएं। in 2010, there was a Sports Directive, and in 2011, there was a Sports Code. अब कोई भी इंटरनेशनल ओलिम्पिक कमिटी external agency को किसी भी organization के अंतर्गत interfere करने की इजाजत नहीं देती है, meaning thereby that the International Olympic Committee does not allow the Government to make a Code in the area of sports और किसी इंडियन ओलिम्पिक एसोसिएशन या स्पोर्ट्स फेडरेशन के नियमों को वह कहीं तोड़-मरोड़ कर अपने ढंग से चलाने का प्रयास करे। इंडियन ओलिम्पिक एसोसिएशन के साथ स्पोर्ट्स डिपार्टमेंट, गवर्नमेंट ऑफ इंडिया interaction कर सकती है। उनके साथ interaction करके उनके अपने नियमों में परिवर्तन ला सकती है, लेकिन वह फोर्स नहीं कर सकती है कि इस कोड के तहत किया जाए। ये जो हाई कोर्ट का हवाला दे रहे हैं, High Court came in between because they came out with a Code of Conduct, that is, the National Sports Development Code. उस कोड के तहत हाई कोर्ट ने direction दिया। Basically, the Indian Olympic Association and the Sports Federation are not supposed to work under any external agency, that is, external code. कोई भी कोड उसके ऊपर लागू हो नहीं सकता। अगर वह अपनी मीटिंग में यह फैसला कर ले कि 70 वर्ष से ऊपर का कोई व्यक्ति चुनाव नहीं लड़ सकता है, तो वह applicable हो जाएगा, लेकिन खेल मंत्रालय इस तरीके का direction दे और कहे कि इस direction के तहत चुनाव हो, तो उस चुनाव को इंटरनेशनल ओलिम्पिक कमिटी नहीं मानने वाली है। इसलिए,

ये जो हाई कोर्ट का issue उठा रहे हैं, यह issue तब उठता है, जब गवर्नमेंट अपनी तरफ से, जिसे कहते हैं हठधर्मी के कारण, interference के कारण this issue has come up.

महोदय, मैं आपके माध्यम से एक simple question पूछना चाहता हूँ कि क्या ओलिम्पिक चार्टर के तहत इंडियन ओलंपिक एसोसिएशन को वर्क करने दिया जाएगा, स्पोर्ट्स फेडरेशन को वर्क करने दिया जाएगा? इन्होंने जो नेशनल स्पोर्ट्स डेवलपमेंट कोड लगाया है, जो कि गवर्नमेंट की तरफ से फोर्स कर रहा है, जिसके कारण गवर्नमेंट के द्वारा बॉक्सिंग एसोसिएशन, आर्चरी एसोसिएशन, दोनों की मान्यता रद्द कर दी गई और इंटरनेशनल ओलिम्पिक कमिटी ने इंडियन ओलिम्पिक कमिटी की मान्यता रद्द कर दी है, क्या सरकार अपने इस कोड को वापस लेगी? बातचीत के जरिए उसमें transparency लाए, जो Code of Conduct बनाना है, वह उनकी स्पोर्ट्स फेडरेशन बनाए, ताकि autonomy भी बहाल रहे, इंटरनेशनल ओलिम्पिक कमिटी का संरक्षण और recognition भी बहाल रहे। यह एक मजाक बन गया है, हमारी जो जग हंसाई हो रही है, इंटरनेशनली स्पोर्ट्स जगत की जग हंसाई हो रही है। सारे देश की स्थितियां जो सामने आती हैं, वे बहुत ही हास्यास्पद हैं। मैं यह पूछना चाहता हूँ कि क्या सरकार इस कोड को वापस लेगी, ताकि अपने कोड के तहत स्पोर्ट्स फेडरेशन और इंडियन ओलिम्पिक एसोसिएशन का चुनाव हो तथा उसकी मान्यता बहाल हो?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, Shri N.K. Singh, put your questions.

SHRI N.K. SINGH (Bihar): Sir, since you want only specific questions to be put to the hon. Minister, I will, with your permission, just make two prefatory remarks before putting my three pointed questions.

Sir, I wish to draw the hon. Minister's attention to a rather telling analysis contained in this exclusive magazine, Tehelka, which ends by saying, "Sports is all about pride, the swagger, the drive to be the fastest, the strongest and the best. It is not a job; it's a game, yet so much more. It's the love for a sport that makes athletes excel. But in India, it's just a means to an end, a source to a government job that will pay the bills. And that is why, we don't win; that is why, we have failed our athlete."

Sir, the statistics in this regard, which is available with us, is that in accordance with medals per ten million of population, for a country like Cuba, it is 185, and, for India, it is 0.2. It is a matter, Sir, of considerable shame, and, what has happened in this present case embeds a deeper malaise in the system, the malaise, for instance, of people, the marathon men, as they are described, serving for 15 years, 20 years, all having strong connections in one form or the other. In the light of this, Sir, I have three questions to seek from the Minister.

[Shri N.K. Singh]

Firstly, is it true that a Comprehensive Sports Policy had been drafted by the former Minister of Sports in March, 2008, and, that Comprehensive Sports Policy, while undergoing a modification, has not yet been changed? We cannot have a Sports Bill till you have a comprehensive Sports Policy. So, my first question to the Minister is: do we have a National Sports Policy since the Sports Code, 2011 is not a substitute for a National Sports Policy.

My second question to the Minister is: what are the key ingredients of Sports Bill, 2011, and, in what manner has that Sports Bill been altered in the revised Sports Bill of October, 2011, and, does it really combine the virtues of independence with accountability, and, deal with all other serious malaise about which the previous speaker spoke, and, about which there are issues in public domain? By when does the Minister, therefore, propose to place before the nation, firstly, a National Comprehensive Sports Policy, and, secondly, a Sports Bill in the light of that Comprehensive Sports Policy, which would be able to combine, and, in some manner, harmonize these conflicting objectives? Thank you.

SHRI VIVEK GUPTA (West Bengal): Sir, I am a sports lover. My heart is pained. Sir, you have asked me to put questions only. My first point is that the Minister, in his statement, has nowhere mentioned about de-recognition of Archery Association. That is completely missing from the statement. Sir, the World Body of Athletics has disapproved the elections of IOA, and, has said that tainted officials cannot be part of any Olympic movement. My second question to the Minister: what are we doing to ensure that any tainted or accused officials are not part of any Olympic movement? Sir, my final question is that politicians and sports bodies had a very comfortable relationship all over these years. Are we doing anything to restrict their numbers or their tenure? Thank you, Sir.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much for being brief.

SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA (Assam): Mr. Deputy Chairman, you have asked me to put questions only. I would like to seek one clarification. Sir, the elections of Indian Olympic Association were due in October, 2012 and, the Executive Committee and General House of Indian Olympic Association decided to hold the elections on 5th December, 2012, and, accordingly, elections were held in presence of one retired Chief Justice and two retired Judges of the High Court. What is the problem? We should know as to why the Indian Olympic Association

was suspended by the International Olympic Committee. The International Olympic Committee, in their communication to the Indian Olympic Association, said that the interference by the Government was one of the main reasons for suspension of Indian Olympic Association. But, what can the Indian Olympic Association do? On the one hand, the Government says that you should follow the Government guidelines, and, on the other hand, the International Olympic Committee says, do not follow the Government guidelines. The Delhi High Court has given a direction that you should conduct the elections on the basis of constitution of the Indian Olympic Association and with the Government's guidelines. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please put the question.

SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA: I am coming to that, Sir. It is related to that. According to that, elections were held. Later, due to this reason, the International Olympic Committee suspended the Indian Olympic Association. Sir, the very interesting part is that this notification of elections was given by the General Secretary of the Indian Olympic Association, who happens to be the Member of the International Olympic Committee.

In the International Olympic Committee meeting held at Copenhagen they took a decision, and according to that decision, law of the land will be applicable. And, Sir, this election was held on the direction of the Delhi High Court. It was a genuine election, held on transparent basis, where a retired Chief Justice was also there.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Okay.

SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA: Sir, I want to know only one thing from the hon. Minister. Is Government of India going to take up this matter with the International Olympic Committee to sort out the problem because this election was held on the basis of the direction of the Delhi High Court? Not only that, Sir, in the Copenhagen Summit, International Olympic Committee took a decision that law of the land will be applicable. In this regard, can the Sports Ministry of the Government of India take up the matter with the International Olympic Committee?

SHRI C.M. RAMESH (Andhra Pradesh): Sir, there is no doubt that it has to be the endeavour of every federation in the country to run its bodies on well-accepted principles, good governance and ethical standards of Olympic movement. But, the recent spat over elections of IOA has brought out the ugly politics of sports in India. And, rightly so, IOC has disbanded IOA. In the light of this, I wish to seek 3-4 clarifications from the hon. Minister.

[Shri C.M. Ramesh]

The first clarification I would like to seek from the hon. Minister is: What are the reasons that IOA has conducted the AGM after suspension by IOC?

The second clarification is; the fundamental reason behind IOC's suspension is political and Government intervention in IOA. So, I would like to know whether Government will make a rule that henceforth no politician would be allowed to contest for any post of federations and IOA and only sports personnel would be allowed to contest. If not, the reasons may be given.

The third clarification is: If IOA is clean and doing everything as per the Olympic Charter, why has it not gone to the Court of Arbitration for Sports to challenge the suspension?

I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether IOC and Government of India have decided to withhold any financial assistance to the IOA. If so, what would be the fate of sportsmen and their participation in international Olympic-related events?

Finally, if you look at the situation, it is extremely confusing and contradictory. On the one hand, IOA is claiming that the Government regulations are derived from the Sports Code which interfere with election process and are not acceptable, and, on the other, it says that it is bound by those Government regulations and will continue proceeding with the IOA elections on the basis of those regulations. What is the reply of the hon. Minister to these contradictory claims of IOA? Thank you.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Okay, thank you. Shri D. Raja, not present. Dr. Bharatkumar Raut, not present. Shri Hanumantha Rao.

श्री वी. हनुमंत राव (आन्ध्र प्रदेश): डिप्टी चेयरमैन सर, खेलों के मामले में इंडिया की ऐसी स्थिति हो गई है कि इंटरनेशनल ओलंपिक एसोसिएशन ने इंडियन ओलंपिक एसोसिएशन के खेलने पर बैन कर दिया है। ऐसा क्यों हुआ, सर? इस पर बहुत से मेम्बर्स बोल रहे हैं। इसमें कोई इंटरफियरेंस नहीं, सरकारी इंटरफियरेंस नहीं, फेडरेशन वाले मनमानी करते हैं, जैसे उनकी जागीर है। एक-एक आदमी बीस-बीस साल तक, बुढ़ा हो जाता है, चल नहीं सकता और वही प्रेसिडेंट रहता है। उसी वजह से आज, मैं खुला बोलता हूं, हमें गोल्ड मेडल नहीं मिलता। साउथ कोरिया, नॉर्थ कोरिया जैसी छोटी कंट्रीज को भी खेल में गोल्ड मेडल मिल रहा है। यहां सिर्फ इनकी मनमानी चल रही है। गवर्नमेंट का बराबर इंटरफियरेंस होना चाहिए, इनका इलेक्शन होना चाहिए। मैं अपने आन्ध्र प्रदेश की बात करता

हूं, सर, मैं इलेक्शन में था, मैं भी एक कैंडिडेट के लिए, एसोसिएशन के प्रेसिडेंट के लिए वोट डालने गया, तो देखा कि वहां मनमानी है, बैठे हुए लोग अपने नाम लिख लेते हैं और हो गए इलेक्टेड। यह क्या है? सर? वैसे अगर कोई अपना कोर्स चलाना चाहता है, कोई खेलना चाहता है, तो उनकी मनमानी है कि अगर इसमें यह खेले, तो उसको लेंगे, नहीं खेले, तो नहीं लेंगे। मैं आपको एक मिसाल बोल दूं, लोकमत क्रिकेट नागपुर वाले वहां खेले, तो कहा गया कि किसी खेल एसोसिएशन को हम क्रिकेट में नहीं लेते, ... ग्राउंड नहीं देते, क्या यह उनकी संपत्ति है? ऐसा वे कब तक चलाते रहेंगे? इतनी बड़ी पोलिसेशन के बाद भी कितने कम गोल्ड मेडल आते हैं। ये * कर रहे हैं। एक-एक आदमी बीस-बीस साल तक बैठा हुआ है, तीस-तीस साल तक बैठा हुआ है। यह पैसा गवर्नमेंट का है, यह फंड गवर्नमेंट का है। गवर्नमेंट को इस पर ध्यान देना चाहिए। इससे पहले कई स्पोर्ट्स मिनिस्टर रहे हैं, सुनील दत्त रहे हैं, मणि शंकर अय्यर रहे हैं, अजय माकन रहे हैं, अभी जितेन्द्र सिंह जी हैं। मैं कह रहा हूं कि आप इसके लिए कोई रूल बनाएं। इनके इलेक्शन में सरकार का हस्तक्षेप होना चाहिए, नहीं तो ये मनमानी करेंगे। इससे अनेक बच्चों की जिंदगी खराब होती है। हमारे यहां आंध्र प्रदेश में फुटबाल एसोसिएशन है। वहां 50 साल से कोई ...*(व्यवधान)*...

श्री उपसभापति: आप क्वेश्चन पूछिए।

श्री वी. हनुमंत राव: अगर नौजवान बच्चा खेलेगा, तो उसे चांस मिलेगा ...*(व्यवधान)*...

श्री उपसभापति: आप क्वेश्चन पूछिए।

श्री वी. हनुमंत राव: उसका future कैसे बनेगा? ये कहते हैं कि federation में interference नहीं होनी चाहिए, Olympic में interference नहीं होनी चाहिए, क्या इन लोगों की * है? सर, मैं चाहता हूं कि ...*(व्यवधान)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: * is an unparliamentary word. It is expunged.

श्री वी. हनुमंत राव: हमारे आंध्र प्रदेश में ऐसे ही हुआ। आंध्र प्रदेश में इलेक्शन कर लिए ...*(व्यवधान)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Put the question.

श्री वी. हनुमंत राव: जब भी जजमेंट आता है, वे कैसे मैनेज करते ...*(व्यवधान)*...

श्री उपसभापति: क्वेश्चन पूछिए ...*(व्यवधान)*...

श्री वी. हनुमंत राव: ऐसा कब तक चलेगा, सर? इसलिए गवर्नमेंट को interfere करना पड़ा। अच्छा किया या बुरा किया, यह तो अपनी-अपनी सोच है। अभी इंटरनेशनल ओलंपिक एसोसिएशन को बैन किया गया है। मेरा व्यू यह है कि सरकार इसको streamline करने की कोशिश कर रही है।

*Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

1.00 P.M.

श्री रणवीर सिंह प्रजापति (हरियाणा): सभापति जी, IOA का चुनाव हाई कोर्ट के आदेश से हुआ था और हाई कोर्ट ने आदेश दिया था कि भारतीय स्पोर्ट्स कोड और IOA के संविधान के मुताबिक इसके चुनाव कराए जाएं। IOA के चुनाव तीन रिटायर्ड जजों - जस्टिस बाली, जस्टिस अनिल देव और जस्टिस कपूर की देखरेख में हुए। वे चुनाव भारतीय स्पोर्ट्स कोड और IOA के संविधान के मुताबिक हुए। इस चुनाव में श्री अभय सिंह चौटाला निर्विरोध IOA के अध्यक्ष निर्वाचित हुए। IOC ने यह कहकर भारत की सदस्यता निलंबित कर दी कि इसके अंदर गवर्नमेंट का दखल न हो। भारत की ओर से IOC के मेम्बर श्री रणधीर सिंह जी हैं और वे भी अध्यक्ष पद के लिए चुनाव लड़ना चाहते थे। उन्होंने अपना नामांकन भी दाखिल किया था, लेकिन चूंकि उनको यह आभास हो गया था कि वे चुनाव नहीं जीत सकते, इसलिए उन्होंने अपना नामांकन वापस ले लिया। श्री अभय सिंह चौटाला, जो सरकार के विरोधी हैं, वे इस पद पर निर्वाचित हो गए और सरकार से समर्थित श्री रणधीर सिंह जी चूंकि हारने वाले थे, इसलिए उन्होंने अपना नाम वापस ले लिया। मैं कहना चाहता हूं कि सरकार इस पर राजनीति कर रही है, क्योंकि उनके विरोधी इसके अध्यक्ष बन गए हैं। अगर IOC ने कोई objection करना ही है, तो श्री रणधीर सिंह, जो IOC के मेम्बर हैं, वे कैसे चुनाव लड़ सकते हैं? इसलिए मैं सरकार से निवेदन करना चाहता हूं कि हमारा देश इतना बड़ा डेमोक्रेटिक देश है ...**(व्यवधान)**...

श्री उपसभापति: आप प्रश्न पूछिए।

श्री रणवीर सिंह प्रजापति: इसके अपने कानून और कायदे हैं और उन्हीं कानून और कायदों के अनुसार वे चुनाव कराए गए। सरकार ने इसके बारे में क्या action लिया है? सर, इसके साथ ही बॉक्सिंग फेडरेशन की बात है। बॉक्सिंग फेडरेशन का चुनाव भी Retired Judge M.S. Liberhan के द्वारा कराया गया। फिर सरकार ने निर्देश दे दिया कि 15 दिनों के अंदर उसका चुनाव दोबारा कराया जाए। Justice M.S. Liberhan से यह पूछा तक नहीं गया कि चुनाव में कोई गड़बड़ी हुई है या नहीं ...**(व्यवधान)**...

श्री उपसभापति: आप प्रश्न पूछिए।

श्री रणवीर सिंह प्रजापति: मैं सरकार से यह जानना चाहता हूं कि चूंकि IOA एक रजिस्टर्ड संस्था है, उसके अपने संविधान के मुताबिक ये चुनाव कराए गए हैं, तो क्या इसकी मान्यता के लिए सरकार IOC से बात करके, इसको बहाल करने का काम करेगी?

SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE (West Bengal): Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, the recent decision of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) to suspend the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) is unfortunate. I will come to the statement of the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports made on 5th December, 2012 — according to

me it is a good step -- "The Government is also keen that the principles of ethics and good governance enshrined in the Olympic Charter should be rigidly adhered to in the elections of the IOA." It is good. May I know from the Minister what action he is going to take to improve the management in sports? The reforms in sports are essential. The people in general say that big politicians many of whom have no connection with sports activities are heading the sports bodies. So far as allegations are concerned, I was told by some people and I want clarification from the Minister, that Mr. Bhanot became internationally famous for explaining bad sanitation standards in a Commonwealth Games' athletes' encampment as an outcome of incompatible standards of cleanliness between India and the Western world. I am surprised that he has been included in the panel. May I know from the Minister whether it is correct or not? We were shocked over the incidents that have taken place in the Commonwealth Games. Though we discussed the issue in the House, we have not concluded the discussion. The Government should take positive steps to initiate reforms in the sports sector. This is my appeal to the Minister.

SHRI SUKHENDU SEKHAR ROY (West Bengal): Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, I have only two specific questions to put. One is, in the initial paragraph, the hon. Minister has stated, "The International Olympic Committee has taken a decision to suspend the Indian Olympic Association. The reason cited by the IOC is: Alleged interference of the Government leading to erosion of the autonomy of the IOC." But I am sorry to say that there is no reaction on that from the Government. So, I would request the Minister to react on that issue.

Further, the hon. Minister has stated in the concluding paragraph, "Nevertheless it will not have major impact on Indian participation in international sporting events in the immediate future." But it appears that the next IOC sponsored event is the 2nd Asian Youth Games which will be held in Nanjing, China, in August, 2013. May I know from the Minister whether Indian sports persons will be able to participate in the Asian Youth Games in China, in August, 2013 with Indian flags or not? That assurance I would like to have from the hon. Minister.

SHRI D.P. TRIPATHI (Maharashtra): Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, I want to put one question. In our country of 120 crore people, we have not been able to get a gold medal since we got one in Munich by our hockey team. It is a sad thing that all our sports bodies are fighting against each other because of politics. The

[Shri D.P. Tripathi]

Minister has stated in his reply that it will not have a major impact on Indian participation in international sporting events. At the same time, he says the events can take place under the flag of the IOC. May I know from the Minister whether there will be Indian flag or not?

SHRI V.P. SINGH BADNORE (Rajasthan): Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, I have two very small relevant and specific questions. It is related to the last paragraph of the hon. Minister's statement. The Minister said, "The decision to suspend the IOA is very unfortunate." Then, he says, "The next Olympic Games will be held in 2016." Is the Minister going to wait till 2016 to resolve this issue? This is number one. No. 2, the main issue, which has also been raised by Shri Hanumantha Rao, is the age factor. If you look at World Federations, the most famous one, which is coming up, is the F1 Grand Prix. Its Chairman, who has done wonders, is Mr. Ecclestone, and he is 84 years old. Is it not that our Prime Minister is also 84 years old? Why are we having this code? I want to ask the hon. Minister.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR (Nominated): Sir, my points of clarifications to the hon. Minister are these. Is he aware that France has a law, that has existed for years, which governs sports in France and the International Olympics Committee has not suspended the French National Olympic Association? Secondly, is the Minister aware that in the draft Comprehensive Sports Policy of 2008, several other precedents were cited which show that the Government has every right, especially, when it is paying the bills, — it is paying the bills for every sport other than cricket — to have rules and regulations? Thirdly, is it not a fact that the Indian Olympics Association has refused to co-operate with Ministers — I can say, with successive Ministers; there are three of us sitting here — in working out codes or acts in consultation with them? Finally, is it not a fact that according to paragraph 1 of the Minister's statement, the allegations against the Government are only allegations, whereas the current crisis has been caused by the first two factors which are established facts?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: That is all. Your time is over.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: These are, No.1, that the IOA has failed to comply with the Olympic Charter, and No.2, that the IOA has failed to maintain fair play, transparency and ethical standards required under the Charter. Therefore, should not this Calling Attention Motion be addressed to the IOA rather than to the Minister?

SHRI AJAY SANCHETI (Maharashtra): Sir, I believe that there should not be any interference in sports affairs by the Government. At the same time, all these sports bodies reflect the image of the country world-wide. So, is the Government thinking of making any guidelines so that, at least, whatever that has happened in the IOC and the IOA does not happen again?

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD (Bihar): Sir, my point of clarification is very simple. The age factor for the International Olympics Committee and the National Committee is one issue. But the larger issue is producing good sportspersons for the country and giving good infrastructure for them. And, apart from cricket, I regret to say that the condition is very, very unsatisfactory. We had champions in football at one point of time. But, now, we are nowhere. ...*(Interruptions)*... The hon. Member is quite right that it is true of hockey also.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: When we were good in football, there were no Football Federations. It is only after they created Football Federations that we have sunk in football.

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Mr. Minister, my point of clarification to you is very straight. What is the total game plan of the Government of India to improve infrastructure and sports facilities in India, beyond cricket, so that we can also improve upon the performances of our great athletes and other sportspersons?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: There should be infrastructure in rural areas.

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: I am really grateful to you for mentioning that. It includes that. Hockey players from Jharkhand, hockey players from tribal areas, they are well-known.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now I would call another former Sports Minister, Dr. M.S. Gill.

DR. M.S. GILL (Punjab): Sir, even though I speak as a Member of Parliament, as Shri Mani has said, we, a large number of us, are ex-Ministers of Sports. Sir, I have to confess that the Order, which is causing trouble to everybody, particularly, to two or three Federations and the IOA, was passed by me. I must confess this to you. Why did I pass it? There is a history of Mrs. Gandhi's Government wanting some regulations for good governance in 1974 and Shri Rajiv Gandhi's Government in 1987. I dug out all those documents. All of those were pushed aside. Sir, what was done? The IOC had a President, Mr. Avery Brundage, in 1968,

[Dr. M. S. Gill]

who was President for thirty years, who could hardly see, who could not walk. I was there in Mexico. After that, Mr. Samaranch of Spain came. He was there for another thirty years. The IOC faced this strong criticism. So, they themselves made a regulation of 70 years to retire finally, maximum of 12 for the President, and eight for Committee members. I passed an order in response to an angry demand from the High Court of Delhi. I had done no wrong, and I passed this order. I filed it in the court. It is the property of the High Court today. Nobody can change it till they decide, and I put 70, 12 and 8. Now the problem is, three or four people have passed 70 years. They are continuously here for 12 to 40 years. They want no age limitation; they want no tenure limitation. And you are asking for medals! Sorry, Sir; you won't get them. Thank you very much.

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): Sir, I will just give one or two brief comments and then, I will put my question to the hon. Minister. Sir, there are two competing views. One is the extent to which the Government should interfere in these matters and participate in these matters. The example of France has been given. But let us not forget that under the Indian Constitution, sports under List II, Entry 33, is squarely a State subject. Sports is not a subject on the Central List. Several Ministers have tried to bring an amendment to bring it in the Concurrent List, but they did not succeed. What is in the residuary Central jurisdiction is representation of India internationally. When that is the matter, which the States can't deal with, therefore, the Centre deals with it, to what extent does the Centre interfere? The governance of sports says, 'You have an international body, you have affiliates which are federations in India and they continue by virtue of their affiliation to the international body.' Now, there are two fundamental principles. The first is that these bodies, all, want their autonomy to be respected. The moment autonomy is interfered in, they start taking actions of the kind, which are taken. And the second is the legitimate issue which some of the Members have raised. Once you enjoy autonomy, then there is a responsibility on you to carry on principles of good governance. In the name of autonomy, you can't have terrible governance; you can't have offenders and various other offences and people getting into these bodies. How do you balance this? The temptation for Governments is to start interfering and say, 'We want to create good governance in these bodies.' The moment you do that, the Minister obviously then starts running the risk of being accused of interfering in the autonomy of these bodies. Now, the three grounds on which the action has been taken against the

Indian Olympics are (a) that there is a violation of the Olympic Charter. It is that the Government of India wants certain conditions to be imposed which they feel is a violation of the Olympic Charter; (b) within their own functioning, fair play and transparency are not there and therefore, principles of good governance are not there. I, therefore, feel that the Minister must consider, it is more a suggestion rather than a question, (a) resist the temptation of a day-to-day interference in these bodies; (b) this is also an occasion for these bodies, as also the Ministry of Sports, to exercise some element of statesmanship. India stands disaffiliated. The hon. Member rightly asked a question that even if individual sportsmen go and participate, there will be no longer an Indian flag participating in these, and, therefore, this is not a situation which we can countenance. Both, the Minister and the Ministry, and also these bodies, have to show some element of statesmanship, put their heads together. The Government must squarely say we do not intend interfering in your functioning,' and these bodies must themselves say that there are some principles of good governance which we are willing to incorporate on ourselves. I have had the privilege of discussing this with the Minister personally also, and making some suggestions to him as to how we can balance these requirements of autonomy and good governance by Government laying down standards and those who don't comply with those standards, then run the risk of not getting any assistance from the Government itself. The Government can find out certain means by which they can do it. But don't get into this game that you need recognition from the Government. Sir, this will create a problem. You need recognition from the Government. You also need recognition from the international federation. What if both of them recognize separate bodies? You cannot have two separate recognized bodies. The recognition has to be from the international body. The Government of India can lay down good governance norms. Those who don't comply with those good governance norms, don't give assistance to them. They must run the risk of losing assistance, so that we don't interfere in the autonomy and, at the same time, we can nudge all these people to follow standards of good governance. And, those who don't follow the standards of good governance, let them run the risk of not getting any form of assistance from the Government itself.

Will the hon. Minister be willing to consider some of these suggestions?

SHRI JITENDRA SINGH: Sir, fifteen hon. Members have participated in the debate. Rather than questions, one has been able to get a lot of valuable suggestions from the hon. Members. I appreciate the suggestions which have come from hon. Members and also from different parts of the country.

[Shri Jitendera Singh]

Sir, I would like to read out some parts of the letter written by the Government of India to the IOC on the 21st November, 2012. The Government had pre-empted that such a situation may arise where IOC derecognizes IOA. It is a two-page letter. I will just, with your permission, read out a few sentences. It says, "I am writing this letter in connection with the International Olympic Committee's letter No. 2012/JPY, dt. 12th November, 2012, addressed to the acting President of the Indian Olympic Association. I would like to clarify that the Government of India has no intention, whatsoever, to interfere in the functioning of the IOA. All the Sports Code seeks to achieve is to ensure that elections of the IOA and other sports bodies are fair, transparent and as per the Olympic Charter. The Code, in fact, enshrines the principles contained in the Olympic Charter and that is why even the court in India has endorsed the Code." Sir, the letter further states, "The Government of India would be extremely happy to discuss issues of good governance and fair election process with the IOC. I am sure, one such meeting takes place and the IOC itself will appreciate the principles-behind the Sports Code. May I also request the IOC to kindly consider a meeting in India with the representatives of the Sports Ministry and, perhaps, with the IOA to sort out these issues? If you agree to such a meeting, could we request that the elections of the IOA be held only after an attempt is made to sort out the issues mutually?"

Sir, my intention to read out this letter was that the Government of India had taken pre-emptive steps and was very, very worried about the situation which may arise. I would also like to state here that the Olympic Charter and the Sports Code are very, very similar. All that we have requested the IOA to do was to incorporate some of the features of the Sports Code into their Constitution whereby interference factor will not come and it will also be according to the Charter of the IOC. All they had to do was to incorporate some of the things which are common both in the Sports Code and the IOC Charter to their Constitution and the situation would not have arisen. Sir, I also thank all the hon. Members who have given their suggestions here today. I would respond to some of the points that have been raised".

Sir, I feel, all the hon. Members of Parliament, including the hon. Leader of the Opposition, would appreciate that it is very, very important to have good governance, accountability and transparency in sports associations and federations. We owe it to our sportspersons. One of the primary responsibilities of sports

associations and federations is to organize talent-hunts, to try and get talent from the grassroots, pick them up when they are young, give them training, organize sports events and try and bring them to the international standards. The Government of India funds such events and camps. And, as the hon. Leader of the Opposition and Ravi Shankar Prasadji had mentioned, it is very important that we go to the grassroots, to villages, try and find talent there, and develop that talent.

Sir, the Budget for the infrastructure component under PICA is Rs. 235 crores and, under the USIS Scheme, it is Rs. 40 crores. Of course, the Budget for the Department of Sports is Rs. 740 crores. But we are being threatened with a cut. We need more money for sports. So, I would seek the support of all the hon. Members of Parliament in this regard. We also request that during the Budget Session in Parliament...

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: You should persuade the Finance Minister to allot you more money in the Budget.

SHRI JITENDRA SINGH: Sir, I am seeking your help. I need your support. I am saying that we need your support, Sir.

SHRI N.K. SINGH: We all are on your side.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: We all support you.

SHRI JITENDRA SINGH: In any case, I take this opportunity to request you for your full support.

Along with this, Sir, there have been other issues that have been raised. But I would like to say that we want a good relationship with all the sports associations and federations. Without them, the sports are not going to benefit, and sportsmen are also not going to benefit. I fully agree with the hon. Leader of the Opposition; he said that it was very, very important that we have a mechanism in place, where good governance, transparency and accountability can be incorporated in the constitutions of these Federations.

Sir, I am very happy to inform you today that a number of associations and federations have amended their constitutions. There are four associations which include the Chess Association, the Rowing Association, the Badminton Association and the Bridge Association. Forty-eight Federations have agreed to modify their constitutions for bringing in good governance, accountability and transparency.

[Shri Jitendra Singh]

Sir, I would also like to speak on what Shri N.K. Singh has said. The Government is speaking to all stakeholders. I am going to speak to all hon. Members of Parliament; I am going to speak to all sportspersons. We are going to have a dialogue with all federations and form a vision document, a policy on how we want to take the Department forward and how to develop sports in the next ten years, till the next Olympics elections. We all want to see India at number one in the next Olympics. How do we get there? How do we bring talent from the grassroots? How do we get better coaches? Sir, there are a lot of challenges which we have to face, especially in terms of recruitment of coaches, teaching coaches.

Lastly, I would like to thank all hon. Members and assure the House...

SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE: Mr. Minister, you send coaches abroad. Instead of sending individual coaches abroad for training purposes, if you bring some international coaches and train our coaches here, that would be more helpful.

SHRI JITENDRA SINGH: Sir, we are doing both. We are also going to send our coaches to be trained abroad. But, we have a large number of foreign coaches, coming from all over the world, who are specialists in the discipline. Sir, we are also trying to build capacity of training our coaches by introducing various other disciplines and courses.

At the end, I would like to thank all the hon. Members for their suggestions. I would like to assure the House that as far as the sports persons are concerned, as the Members had mentioned "The next events are going to be in 2013, 2014, and 2016", we would like to see our sports persons win medals under the Indian flag. But, for a temporary period, for an interim period, if this is not possible due to the internal fight between IOA & IOC, we have spoken to IOC and they have given us an assurance that Indian sports persons would not suffer and they can win medals under the IOC flag. But, Sir, the Government is working 24×7 and willing to...

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: We should respect the autonomy also.

SHRI JITENDRA SINGH: Absolutely, Sir. I respect the autonomy. The Government does not want to impose anything. But, you will also appreciate that it is very important for the associations also to bring in transparency, good governance.

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: We are with you on that.
...(Interruptions)...

SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO (Andhra Pradesh): Without getting anything, we are conducting events ...(Interruptions)... We are not getting an opportunity. Years together, we are not ...(Interruptions)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No, please. ...(Interruptions)...

SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Years together, we are not ...(Interruptions)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Minister, you need not reply to every question again. I allowed everybody in the discussion.

SHRI JITENDRA SINGH: That is why I appeal to even federations and associations to bring in good governance to promote sports and to bring in a lot of sportspersons and retired sportspersons also who have won medals internationally and nationally in their sports federations to increase the effectiveness of the sports.

Sir, I thank you very, very much and thank all the Members for their suggestions. I assure you that the Government will work 24×7 to resolve the issue and promote sports in the country. Thank you.

SHRI DEREK O'BRIEN (West Bengal): Sir, allow Mr. Ghosh to say a few words.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: That is not possible. I allowed you. ...(Interruptions)... That is why I allowed you. At that time, you did not stand up; he stood up. He took one minute. ...(Interruptions)... Now, I am allowing you. ...(Interruptions)... No, once I allowed him for one minute, I cannot allow him again. That is the point. I am allowing you. You can raise it. It is an important-matter. ...(Interruptions)...

SHRI DEREK O'BRIEN: Sir, it is a very important matter.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: It is between you; you sort it out. It is not my job. ...(Interruptions)...

SHRI DEREK O'BRIEN: Sir, he has not opened his mouth. He has not spoken. ...(Interruptions)... He has not spoken. ...(Interruptions)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No; you take your seat. ...*(Interruptions)*... It is not my job. ...*(Interruptions)*... That is why I am allowing you. You wanted to raise it, and I allowed you. Now, what are you asking me to do? If you want, you raise it. I consider it very important. Yes, please. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA (Assam): Sir, can I take a minute?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No, no; it is over. That subject is over.
...*(Interruptions)*... No, no; that is another subject. Now, Shri Derek O'Brien.

RE. COMMEMORATION OF 100 YEARS OF KAVI GURU
RABINDRANATH TAGORE RECEIVING THE NOBEL PRIZE

SHRI DEREK O'BRIEN (West Bengal): Sir, this day, this week, this year, is a very important day because this commemorates the 100 years of Kavi Guru Rabindranath Tagore receiving the Nobel Prize. Sir, for 30 years in Bengal, everyone had forgotten Tagore. But thankfully, Sir, in the last couple of years, we are celebrating Tagore. So, we appeal to everyone across the country to celebrate this in a very, very special way because this was a very special occasion for someone like Guru Rabindranath Tagore. Sir, 100 years ago, he won the Nobel Prize. We appeal to the people across the country and the Central Government to make this a memorable and a gracious occasion. Thank you, Sir.

SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE (West Bengal): Sir, I associate myself with this subject.

SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA (Assam): Sir, I also associate myself with this issue.

SHRI SHIVANAND TIWARI (Bihar): Sir, I associate myself with this subject.

SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK (Goa): Sir, I also associate myself with this subject.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Sir, we also associate ourselves with this issue.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Yes, all those who associate themselves with it will be added. ...*(Interruptions)*... Yes, all the Members associate themselves with it ...*(Interruptions)*... Now, all those who associate themselves with what Shri O'Brien