

(d) and (e) There was no blunder on the part of the Government. It is to be noted that the IOA elections were to be held under its own constitution as well as the National Sports Development Code 2011 as per the directions of the Delhi High Court in Civil Writ Petition No. 195/2010. The invocation of the Sports Code came about because of the said Writ Petition which was filed by one Shri Rahul Mehra, Advocate.

The International Olympic Committee (IOC) took exception to the fact that the elections were not being held solely under the constitution of the IOA and deemed it interference by the Government and impinging on the autonomy of the IOA. The IOC did not take into account the fact that the election was to be held under the National Sports Development Code at the behest of the Delhi High Court and that it was mandatory for the IOA to follow the directions of the High Court.

The tenure and age restrictions prescribed by the Sports Code are completely in line with the restrictions enshrined in the Olympic Charter itself as well as the practice followed by the IOC. All the Sports Code seeks to ensure is that the elections to the IOA and other sports bodies are fair, transparent and in-consonance with the Olympic Charter.

In fact it is not the Ministry's Sports Code but the IOA's constitution which is not aligned to the Olympic Charter. The IOA had agreed to amend its constitution in 2010, but has failed to bring about necessary amendments in the past two years. Had they done so, the IOC would not have intervened on this ground.

The Government has initiated several measures to resolve the issues that have been created by the directions of the IOC; The Centres of Sports Authority of India (SAI) which have been used by Indian athletes in the past will still be open to them as before. Government has offered to hold a meeting with the IOC for discussing issues of good governance and fair election processes in Indian sports bodies. The Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Youth Affairs and Sports has also held discussions with stakeholders, including the National Sports Federations, eminent Sportspersons, persons from the civil society etc. in order to find a way out of the situation created by the action of the IOC.

#### **Steps to keep wrestling under Olympics**

1083. SHRIMATI VASANTHI STANLEY: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry is successful in keeping the wrestling discipline in the Olympic; and

(b) the steps taken by the Ministry to make the International Olympic Committee (IOC) reconsider banning of Indian Olympic Association (IOA)?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI JITENDRA SINGH): (a) The Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports has taken up the matter with International Olympic Committee (IOC) requesting it to reconsider the decision of its Executive Board (EB) to exclude Wrestling from 25 core sports it will propose for the 2020 Summer Olympic Games during the 125th IOC session to be held in September in Argentina and to retain Wrestling in the category of core sports for Olympic Games. The Government will continue to make all efforts including building international opinion on this matter.

(b) The International Olympic Committee (IOC) at its Executive Board meeting held on 4th December, 2012 took a decision to suspend the Indian Olympic Association (IOA).

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#### **Promotion of traditional/domestic games**

1084. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether traditional/indigenous/ domestic games are neglected in the country;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto;

(c) whether Government has implemented any scheme to promote such games in the country; and

(d) if so, the State-wise and sports/discipline-wise details thereof and the funds allocated and utilized for promotion of these games during each of the last three years and the current year?