

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI JITENDRA SINGH): (a) and (b) The Government made a written submission before the CIC on 16-12-2011 and 09-01-2012 pleading to bring the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) under the RTI Act. While the matter was being adjudicated by the CIC, Hon'ble Madras High Court vide order dated 24-07-2013 in Writ Petition No. 20229 of 2013 and MP No. 2 of 2013 issued interim stay on the said proceedings.

Over-priced travel for athletes

2325. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn towards recent report about crores of rupees wasted on over-priced travel for athletes and the Sports Authority of India has expressed its displeasure over a Central Government directive which makes it mandatory for athletes to travel only through official travel agents, whose tickets are costlier than those available in open market;

(b) if so, Government's response and reaction thereto; and

(c) the details of steps taken or proposed to be taken to avoid such huge wastages?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI JITENDRA SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir. The Government is aware of the report.

(b) and (c) The Ministry has asked SAI to impress upon the NSFs the need to give details of travel to SAI at least 30 to 45 days in advance so as to enable SAI to economize on fare paid for air travel. SAI has also been asked to discuss with concerned officials of Air India means to economize on fare paid for air travel like discounts on bulk bookings etc and review its procedure for procurement of air tickets.

In an effort to ensure that the national teams are put to least physical strain related to travel while still maintaining the priority that needs to be accorded to the national carrier, the Ministry had issued the following guidelines on 12th February 2010 for the National Sports Federations to seek relaxation for air travel by Indian teams by private airlines:

- (i) Wherever there is a direct flight of Air India, the National team should invariably travel on Air India except where the tickets in the entitled class are not available.

- (ii) So long as the routing involves only one change of flight and the waiting period does not exceed 4 hours, the national carrier is to be given preference.
- (iii) Bookings to be done well in advance to ensure cheapest available fare in Excursion/Economy class.
- (iv) In case relaxation is sought to travel by private airlines on the basis of non-applicability of conditions in point (i) and (ii), the air fare quoted by the private airlines should be lower than Air India fare.
- (v) Bookings of private airlines is also to be done through Government authorized agencies, viz. M/s. Balmer Lawrie & Co. Ltd. and M/s. Ashoka Tours and Travels Ltd. with prior approval of Government.

Suspension of IOA by IOC

2326. SHRI N. BALAGANGA: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) was suspended by the International Olympic Committee (IOC);
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether there have been large scale irregularities reported in the IOA, if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the steps taken by Government in this regard and to improve the quality of sports in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI JITENDRA SINGH): (a) to (d) The International Olympic Committee (IOC) at its Executive Board meeting held on 4th December, 2012 took the decision to suspend the Indian Olympic Association (IOA). Reasons cited by IOC for suspension of IOA were: IOA's failure to comply with the Olympic Charter and its statutes, failure to inform the IOC in a timely manner, and as a protective measure against Government interference in the IOA's election process.

The Government has been taking all possible measures for early resolution of the matter relating to suspension of IOA by IOC so as to enable Indian sportspersons to participate in international sports meets under the Indian National Flag. The Government has been actively engaged with the IOC in this matter. A delegation led by Minister