

- (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

of State (Independent Charge) for Youth Affairs and Sports visited Lausanne (Switzerland) in May, 2013 for a meeting with representatives of IOC, in which a roadmap was agreed for paving way for lifting of suspension of IOA by IOC. IOA has, on its part, agreed to amend its constitution as per IOC's requirements.

The General Assembly of suspended IOA met on 9th February, 2014 during which it held elections of new office bearers. NOW IOC has included IOA back in the Olympic movement.

As regards improving the quality of sports in the country, primary responsibility for development of sports is that of the State Governments as 'Sports' is a State Subject. However, the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports and Sports Authority of India supplement the efforts of the States.

For broadbasing of sports facilities and mass participation in sports, the Ministry is implementing the following major Schemes:

(i) Panchayat Yuva Krida and Khel Abhiyan (PYKKA), introduced in 2008-09 which aims at creation/development of basic playfields in all village panchayats and block panchayats of the country in a phased manner over a period of ten years and conducting sports competitions from block level to national level.

(ii) Urban Sports Infrastructure Scheme (USIS), introduced in 2010-11 under, which assistance is given to States/UTs for construction of multi-purpose halls and laying of synthetic athletic track, synthetic hockey field.

For promotion of excellence in sports, the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports and the Sports Authority of India (SAI) are implementing the following major Schemes:

- (i) Scheme of Assistance to National Sports Federations (NSFs)
- (ii) National Sports Development Fund
- (iii) Centres of Excellence (CoE) Scheme

Guidelines for selection for Arjuna awards

2327. SHRI P. RAJEEVE: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has been following any guidelines for selecting persons for Arjuna awards;