

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS
DEPARTMENT OF SPORTS
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2233
ANSWERED ON - 06/08/2026

PROTECTION OF ATHLETES UNDER ANTI-DOPING FRAMEWORK

2233 Dr. Sikander Kumar:

Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

- (a) the specific procedural safeguards and legal protections established under the newly enforced anti-doping framework to protect athletes against wrongful doping allegations;
- (b) whether Government has mandated World Anti-Doping Agency accreditation for all domestic dope testing laboratories and if so, the current status of compliance; and
- (c) the steps being taken to verify whether any adverse test reports were caused by technical departures or laboratory errors before penalties are applied?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS

(DR. MANSUKH MANDAVIYA)

(a) The newly enforced National Anti-Doping Act (Amendment), 2025 provide several procedural safeguards and legal protections, in conformity with the applicable World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) International Standards, to ensure that athletes are afforded due process and are protected against wrongful doping allegations. The salient safeguards include: -

- (i) Athletes are duly notified by the National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA), responsible for anti-doping programme in the country of any Adverse Analytical Finding (AAF) and are provided an opportunity to explain, submit relevant evidence, and present their defence in accordance with the prescribed procedures.
- (ii) Athletes have the right to request analysis of the B sample as well as Laboratory Documentation Package and to be present during the opening and analysis of the 'B' sample, where applicable.
- (iii) Athletes are entitled to an independent and impartial hearing before any sanctions are imposed, with the right to be represented by legal counsel.

(iv) Independent Anti-Doping Disciplinary Panel Decisions may be appealed before the Anti-Doping Appeal Panel, if he is not satisfy with the decision ensuring an additional right to appeal before appellate body.

(v) Athletes requiring prohibited substances or methods for legitimate medical treatment may obtain Therapeutic Use Exemptions (TUE) in accordance with established procedures.

(b) There is one National Dope Testing Laboratory in New Delhi, India, which is WADA accredited.

(c) Steps taken to verify whether any adverse test reports were caused by laboratory errors or technical departures before imposing any penalties are as follows:

(i) Laboratory Errors

The National Dope Testing Laboratory follows the applicable provisions of the World Anti-Doping Code and the International Standard for Laboratories (ISLs) of the WADA to ensure that an Adverse Analytical Finding (AAF) is scientifically and procedurally validated.

Verification of technical compliance: The analytical process is examined for compliance with the applicable WADA ISLs, Technical Documents, approved laboratory procedures and validated analytical methods.

(ii) Review of possible technical departures

Upon receipt of an Adverse Analytical Finding, NADA as the Results Management Authority conducts an initial review in accordance with the National Anti-Doping Rules (NADR) 2021, Article 7 and the International Standard for Results Management (ISRM), Section 5.
