

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS
(DEPARTMENT OF SPORTS)**

**LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION No. 190
TO BE ANSWERED ON 14.03.2023**

Sexual Harassment in Sports

***190. KUNWAR DANISH ALI:**

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

(a) the details of number of cases that have come to notice of the Government regarding sexual harassment in sports especially in wrestling; and

(b) the details of steps taken by the Government in this regard?

**ANSWER
THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS
[SHRI ANURAG SINGH THAKUR]**

(a) & (b): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) & (b) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 190 TO BE ANSWERED ON 14/03/2023 REGARDING “SEXUAL HARASSMENT IN SPORTS” ASKED BY KUNWAR DANISH ALI, HON’BLE MEMBER OF LOK SABHA.

(a) & (b): Provisions of Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) (POSH) Act, 2013 are applicable to National Sports Federations (NSFs) and other sports organizations, including those under the Central Government and the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations, as applicable to any entity defined in the Act. The NSFs and other sports organizations are bound to take action in terms of the extant legal provisions in the cases of sexual harassment reported to them.

As regards the case of sexual harassment in Wrestling, recently some wrestlers staged protest/ dharna levelling allegations of sexual harassment, arbitrariness and mismanagement in the functioning of the Wrestling Federation of India (WFI). As the matter pertained to the wellbeing of the athletes, the Government immediately took note of the allegations and instructed the Executive Committee of WFI to abstain, as an interim measure, from administering and managing the day-to-day activities of the WFI. Further, as a purely interim measure, an Oversight Committee headed by Ms. M.C. Mary Kom, Major Dhyanchand Khel Ratna Awardee and Olympic Medallist, has been

appointed by the Government to enquire into the allegations of sexual misconduct, harassment and / or intimidation, financial irregularities and administrative lapses, levelled by prominent sportspersons; and to undertake day-to-day administration of WFI.

For sensitizing the NSFs in the matter of sexual harassment in sports, instructions have been issued by the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports to NSFs from time-to-time for taking the requisite measures as required by law.

The Sports Authority of India (SAI), an autonomous organization under the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports, where national level athletes are imparted coaching either as trainees or as part of the national coaching camps organized at its centres, has taken various steps to deal with cases of sexual harassment. An Internal Complaints Committee (ICC) has been constituted in each of the SAI Regional Centres with a senior lady officer as the Chairperson. Members of the Committee include a lady official from a local NGO and lady officers of SAI.

During domestic/International camps and competition exposures, women coaches are mandatorily made part of every contingent which has female athletes. Compliance Officers are appointed during National Coaching Camps and foreign visits. The roles and responsibilities of the Compliance Officers include communicating regularly with athletes and others to ensure that the guidelines are being followed, as well as to enforce the Standard Operating

Procedure on prevention of incidents of sexual harassment. Further, pre-Camp Sensitization modules are designed and presented to all athletes, coaches and support staff together before commencement of any National Coaching Camp and foreign visit.

In addition to the above, a 24x7 call centre is also run by SAI to address grievances of the sportspersons.
