

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

**LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION No. 73
TO BE ANSWERED ON 25.07.2023**

Protest by Women Wrestlers

***73. SHRI M. BADRUDDIN AJMAL:**

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

(a) whether it is a fact that recently a group of women wrestlers were protesting for action against injustice or sexual harassment that they had gone through;

(b) if so, the details of steps or initiatives taken by the Government to take legal as well as disciplinary action against the guilty;

(c) whether the Government has taken any action to address the demands of such wrestlers; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for taking action against protesting wrestlers hurriedly?

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

(a) to (d) The Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.73 FOR REPLY ON 25.07.2023 ASKED BY SHRI M. BADRUDDIN AJMAL REGARDING PROTEST BY WOMEN WRESTLERS.

(a) to (c) Sir, some wrestlers had staged protest/ dharna in January, 2023, 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, was appointed by the Government on 23.1.2023 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.

As regards complaints from wrestlers, Delhi Police had registered 2 FIRs on 28.4.2023. Chargesheet has been filed in the Court by Delhi Police.

At present, the affairs of WFI, including the selection of athletes and making of entries for participation of sportspersons in international events, are being managed by that Ad hoc Committee constituted by the Indian Olympic Association until such time as the newly elected Executive Committee takes charge.

(d) Protesters were removed from Jantar Mantar as they had violated the orders under section 144 of Criminal Procedure Code (Cr.PC) and a criminal case under Sections 147/149/186/188/332/353 of Indian Penal Code (IPC) and Section 3 of Prevention of Damage to Public Property (PDPP) Act, 1984. During the agitation, proper security was provided by Delhi Police for the safety of wrestlers.
