

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 864
TO BE ANSWERED ON 25.07.2023**

Protest by Wrestlers

864. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that many wrestlers are protesting against the sexual harassment meted out to them during many events in the past;

(b) if so, whether the Ministry has held any meeting with these wrestlers;

(c) if so, the main grievances of these players;

(d) whether it is a fact that many international sports federations including International Olympic Committee (IOC) have expressed displeasure over the treatment meted out to them during protest; and

(e) if so, the details of the present position of the allegation levelled by these wrestlers and the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

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

(a) to (e) 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.

At present, 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 (IOA) until such time, the newly elected Executive Committee takes charge.

In the wake of incidents of 28 May 2023 at Jantar Mantar, International Olympic Committee (IOC) and United World Wrestling (UWW), international federation for wrestling, have expressed their concerns.

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.
