

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

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION No.479  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 06.02.2024**

**Suspension of Wrestling Federation of India**

**479. PROF. SOUGATA RAY:  
SHRIMATI PRATIMA MONDAL:**

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

- (a) whether the Government has taken any steps to resolve the issues between Wrestling Federation of India and the Wrestlers of the country;**
- (b) if so, the details thereof;**
- (c) the details of steps taken by the Government for conducting the competitions;**
- (d) whether the suspension of WFI will affect the participation of Indian Wrestlers in International competitions;**
- (e) if so, the details thereof; and**
- (f) the steps taken by the Government to ensure Indian wrestlers' presence in international competitions under Indian Flag?**

**ANSWER  
THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS  
(SHRI ANURAG SINGH THAKUR)**

**(a) to (f) Sir, some wrestlers, including prominent women wrestlers, had staged a protest/dharna in January 2023, levelling allegations of sexual harassment, arbitrariness and mismanagement on part of the former President of the Wrestling Federation of India (WFI). Since the matter pertains to the wellbeing of the athletes, Government of India immediately took note of the allegations and directed the Executive Committee (EC) of the WFI to abstain from administering and managing the day-to-day activities of the WFI. Further, as a purely interim measure, an Oversight Committee was appointed by the Government on 23.01.2023 to enquire**

**into the allegations of sexual misconduct, harassment and/or intimation, financial irregularities and administrative lapses, levelled by prominent sportspersons. Later, on 03.05.2023, the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) appointed an Ad Hoc Committee to manage the affairs of the WFI, including selection of athletes and making entries for participation of sportspersons in international events, and also to conduct the elections of the EC of the WFI.**

**The elections were held on 21.12.2023. However, due to some arbitrary and unauthorised actions on part of the newly elected President of WFI, the Government, on 24.12.2023, directed the EC of the WFI to abstain from administering and managing the day-to-day activities of the Federation, as such actions are against the principles of the Good Governance. Subsequently, on 27.12.2023, the IOA appointed an Ad Hoc Committee, tasked with overseeing and supervising the operations of the WFI, such as athletes' selection, submitting entries for athletes to participate in international events, organizing sports activities, handling bank accounts etc.**

**As regards allegations of sexual harassment, based on the FIRs filed, Delhi Police has filed a charge sheet in the Court.**

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