

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No.542
TO BE ANSWERED ON 06.02.2024**

**Suspension of Newly Elected Executive
Committee of Wrestling Federation of India**

**542. SHRI KARTI P. CHIDAMBARAM:
SHRI S. VENKATESAN:**

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

(a) the reasons for the suspension of the newly- elected executive Committee of the Wrestling Federation of India (WFI);

(b) whether the decision is in the background of announcement by a bronze medalist from the 2016 Olympics that quit wrestling and if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of measures taken by the Ministry to safeguard women sports persons following the protests against alleged sexual harassment by then Chief of Federation;

(d) whether the Ministry has been monitoring the functioning of the WFI since sexual harassment allegations have been made against its former president and if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government plans on reforming the composition and function of WFI; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

**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.
