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Title: The Minister of State of the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports made a Suo-Motu statement regarding intent of the government to initiate National Debate on need to have legislation for development of sports at national level and to deal with all matters connected therewith.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): Madam Speaker, I wish to make a suo-motu statement in this august House on the intent of the Government to initiate a national debate on the need to have legislation for the development of sports at the national level and to deal with all matters connected therewith. For this purpose, we propose to place in public domain an exposure draft paper on the proposed national sports legislation. This draft paper contains the following broad principles:-

- a) Some of the core principles enunciated in the 'Basic Universal Principles of Good Governance' proposed by the IOC and endorsed by the XIII Olympic Congress, which include fair and transparent election process; age and tenure limit in respect of office bearers; and participation of athletes in the decision-making process.
- b) Best practices in sport governance identified from the legal frame work of sports operating in other countries.
- c) Anti-Doping regulations compliant with WADA Code to be given legislative backing. As a signatory to the UNESCO convention, India has shown highest commitment to movement against doping. It is a member of the World Anti Doping Agency (WADA) and has constituted its own National Anti Doping Agency (WADA) on the lines of WADA;
- d) Measures to prevent sexual harassment of women by following the guidelines enunciated by the hon. Supreme Court in the Vishakha judgement.
- e) Foolproof guidelines for detection and prevention of age fraud in sports.
- f) Effective and speedy resolution of sport-related disputes, including redressal of athletes' grievances, through conciliation and mediation process by appointing a National Sports Ombudsman.

Madam Speaker, through you, I wish to inform the august House of this proposal and seek their support and cooperation in furthering this initiative.

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