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Title: Regarding alleged violation of Hyperandrogenism policy of International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF) by Ms. Dutee Chand, a sprinter, resulting in her disqualification.

SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB (CUTTACK): Madam, it was in 2014, I had raised a matter relating to a budding athlete Dutee Chand. At that time, the then Sports Minister and the present Chief Minister of Assam Shri Sonowal had taken it up. Again, I am raising this issue because the Court of Arbitration for Sports is now going to reopen Dutee Chand's hyperandrogenism case.

The Government should challenge the IAAF's latest finding with charges of conflict of interest and bias. It was done by IAAF's researchers and leading scientists, Stephane Bermon and Pierre-Yves Garnier, both. Garnier was a part of the IAAF's medical and anti-doping Commission for many years. Similarly, Garnier is the director of the health and science department of the IAAF.

This is a case of conflict of interest since the World Anti-Doping Agency was a party of this research paper. These scientists should have been neutral, but they owe their allegiance to the IAAF.

Dutee was barred from competing by the Athletic Federation of India – as in the case of Chitra that was mentioned by Shri Ramachandran – in September 2014. She challenged the decision at the Court of Arbitration for Sports (CAS), which overturned it on July 27, 2015. CAS had given two years time to IAAF to come up with some new findings.

But the situation here today is this. The Athletics Federation of India (AFI) had disqualified Ms. Dutee Chand, a rising sprinter, in 2014 due to violation of hyperandrogenism policy of the International Association of Athletics Federation. However, the Court of Arbitration for Sports had overturned the decision of AFI in 2015 and directed AFI to re-approach the Court after two years with more evidences on hyperandrogenism regulations. The IAAF's research paper on the issue, however, is in question due to charges of conflict of interest and bias on the part of IAAF's researchers and scientists. Both the researchers and the scientists who prepared this research paper were associated with IAAF for a very long time. It is a matter of prestige of our country. Dutee Chand is an aspiring gold medallist. That is what was proved in Bhubaneswar athletics and other athletics also. ...(*Interruptions*) Let me complete.

I, therefore, urge upon the Government to fight it out in the International Court, that is, in Switzerland where this was fought in 2014. Here is a case that we have to say that there is a conflict of interest and, accordingly, the respective Ministry or Minister may be approached to take up this case. This is for sex-based discrimination and undue harassment due to biased research paper of IAAF. I would be happy if the Government responds to this case, please.

HON. SPEAKER:

Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel,

Shri Bhairon Prasad Mishra,

Dr. Kirit P. Solanki,

Shri Sharad Tripathi and

Shri Kamakhya Prasad Tasa are permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri Bhartruhari Mahtab.

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANTHKUMAR): Madam, earlier also, our hon. Members from Kerala have raised a similar matter. Now, my dear colleague Shri Bhartruhari Mahtab, who is a veteran Parliamentarian, has also raised this issue concerning the Indian athletes from two different States. If there is an issue of conflict of interest and if it has to be raised at the level of IAAF and if India has to represent that in the Court of Arbitration in Switzerland, then, I think, we will definitely take up this matter through our hon. Youth Affairs and Sports Minister. I will bring to his notice the entire Zero Hour submissions of our Members here today and see that our athletes get justice so that they can win gold medal for India in Olympics.

