



competitions and accountability for proper utilisation of funding to sports bodies by the government.

However, fearing excessive government interference, Bach, according to some of the IOA members who attended the meeting, informed Rathore that in the name of transparency and autonomy, the government can't impose the sports code. While urging less government interference, Bach told the minister, according to IOA members, that rather than fighting on the issue, both the ministry and IOA should ensure that the principles of good governance are followed. It's only after this discussion that Bach proposed the working group which was accepted by all.

The revised draft of the sports code has become a bone of contention between the ministry on one hand and the IOA and NSFs on the other. It bars the ministers, parliamentarians, MLAs and bureaucrats from holding key posts in the NSFs and other autonomous sports bodies, apart from the ever-contentious clause of age and tenure. The draft is the revision of the original sports code of 2011, which had the IOC's approval.

Recently, the IOA formed an eight-member committee, with R K Anand as working president, to hold talks with the government in order to ensure smooth functioning between the IOA and the ministry.

Bach also had another important announcement to make. He informed that the IOC will form a separate four-member group which will devise a roadmap where the most talented athletes from India will be helped to prepare for the 2020 Tokyo Olympics and other important competitions with the help of international expertise. The members of this group will also come from the IOC, OCA, IOA and the ministry.

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