VIJENDER FEELS BAN AFFECTING ATHLETES

ACE pugilist Vijender Singh's exasperation is understandable. Every athlete in the country is experiencing a similar feeling after the ban imposed on the country's Olympic body by the international Olympic Committee.

The Indian Amateur Boxing Federation (IABF) too has been derecognised by the world body and boxers cannot participate in international competitions. Now, the threat of them missing out on World Championships is looming large, and Vijender is just hoping the issue is sorted out before the event in September.

"I hope the standoff is resolved soon as it is very frustrating for us in the current scenario. As a boxer, my job is to train and prepare hard for the competitions, but the ban by the International body is affecting the boxers. I am training with a sense of purpose," said Vijender, who is currently undergoing a camp in Patna.

Vijender aptly described the state of the boxers when he said that he is willing to meet any official or person in order to get it lifted.

"I am willing to meet the sports minister or any official if required. I am also requesting the people of this country to stand beside us in this hour of need," he added.

The boxer who was in the Capital as a guest speaker on the 11th IBF-TOC Meet, also feels that Sushil Kumar should have got the Padma Bhushan award. "I think Sushil deserved the Padma Bhushan award as he is one of the best sportspersons our country has produced. He is a superb athlete and I think he will keep performing in the same vein," the 2008 Olympics bronze medallist said.