Willing to go to Lausanne to meet IOC officials: Govt

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DESPERATE to get the suspension on the IOA lifted, Sports Minister Jitendra Singh on Monday said he has no qualms in meeting International Olympic Committee (IOC) officials at their headquarters in Lausanne to break the deadlock.

"The IOC is willing to speak to the government and we are happy that very soon, we will be having a dialogue with them.

We are also meeting all other stakeholders i.e. the sports persons across India, and soon come up with a solution," Singh said.

"I am even willing to go to Lausanne if I am needed to go. I will definitely go but first we need to clear few things like are they coming here or are we going there. But I have no problem in going to Lausanne to end the impasse," he added.

Just a day before the elections on December 5, the IOC had suspended the IOA for adhering to the government’s Sports Code. The international body has also barred it from discharging any official duties such as holding meetings till the issue is resolved.

But in an act of defiance, the IOA went ahead with the poll though the international body refused to recognise Abhay Singh Chautala, who was elected unopposed as president, and his team of office-bearers.

The IOC also directed the international federations to ensure that National Sports Federations in India function without any interference from the government.

The Sports Ministry has sought a dialogue with the IOC to assuage its concerns.

“We have got a message, a communiqué from IOC, and we are meeting the (IOA) members rather than the acting president and the IOC members. We have got a communication and very soon we will be engaging in a dialogue process to end the impasse,” Singh told reporters here on the sidelines of a functionorganised by TERI -- YUVA MEET 2013 (Green Growth -- Preparing Youth for Sustainable Living).

On the Athletics Federation of India removing a contentious clause from its constitution and calling for re-election to three top posts next month, Singh said the Sports Ministry is yet to receive an official communication from the AFI.

“I still have to get the official communication first, then only I can comment on it. I have not yet received any communication from the AFI and once my Ministry receives it, we will look into the matter,” he said. – PTI