

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3188
ANSWERED ON:23.08.2006
CRITERIA FOR ARJUNA AWARDS
Baxla Shri Joachim

Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

- (a) the criteria for selection of Arjuna Awards;
- (b) the reaction of Ministry regarding doubts expressed by renowned sportspersons every year over the transparency adopted for the selection of awards;
- (c) whether the Union Government has taken any steps to avoid such controversies;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether it is a fact that despite showing good performance, some deserving sportspersons are deprived of the Awards;
- (f) if so, the details thereof and the names of such sportspersons; and
- (g) the corrective steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ AND YOUTH AFFAIRS & SPORTS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR)

(a) As per the Scheme for Arjuna Awards, to be eligible for the Award, a sportsperson should have had not only good performance consistently for the previous three years at the International level with excellence for the year for which the Award is recommended but also should have shown qualities of leadership, sportsmanship and a sense of discipline. For this purpose, only sportspersons from the disciplines falling under following categories are considered:-

(i) Olympic Games/Asian Games/Commonwealth Games/World Cup/World Championship disciplines or any equivalent recognized international tournament, and cricket.

(ii) Indigenous Games

(iii) Sports for Physically challenged

(b) to (g): The Arjuna Awards are decided by a Selection Committee comprising 15 members, of which 12

(including the Chairman of the Committee) involve eminent sportspersons, Olympians of eminence, Arjuna Awardees or Sports Administrators.

Nominations are called from recognized National Sports Federations, Indian Olympic Association, States/UT Governments and Sports Promotion/Control Boards of various Government agencies every year in the

month of January and nominations received by 31st May are scrutinized by the Sports Authority of India and placed before a Screening Committee for verification of performances indicated in the nomination paper. The performance of each nominee is further scrutinized and discussed in the Selection Committee meeting. Only 15 awards can be given in a calendar year, for which selection is made by the Committee after due deliberation and consideration of all the nominations received. The possibility of a sportsperson, being personally aggrieved at not being selected cannot be ruled out. Every effort is made to ensure that the selection is made in an objective manner.