

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4640
ANSWERED ON:26.04.2005
PADMA AWARD
Chitthan Shri N.S.V.

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has come out with any notification that persons conferred with Padma Awards should not use it with their names; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT)

(a) and (b): The constitutional validity of Padma Awards was challenged in two public interest writ petitions on the ground that the Awards were `titles` within the meaning of Article 18(1) of the Constitution of India. While upholding the constitutional validity of the Awards, the Supreme Court observed that these Awards do not amount to `titles` within the meaning of Article 18(1) and that they should not be used as suffixes or prefixes. The Supreme Court further directed that if this is done, the defaulter should forfeit the Award conferred on him or her by following the procedure as laid down in the regulations governing such awards.

The above observations of the Supreme Court are, accordingly, brought to the notice of all the Padma awardees every year, advising them to abide by the directions of the Supreme Court and ensure that the Padma Award conferred on them is not prefixed or suffixed to their name and that they do not permit any individual or organization to refer to the award so as to make it sound or be felt like a title.