

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CULTURE**

RAJYA SABHA

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 354
TO BE ANSWERED ON 27.04.2016**

AWARDING PRIZES TO MUSICIANS

354. SHRI C.P. NARAYANAN:

Will the Minister of **CULTURE** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government honours musicians by awarding prizes to them;
- (b) if so, what are the norms;
- (c) whether Government has cancelled in recent years a panel of musicians to be honoured;
- (d) whether Government has prepared a new list of names of musicians to be honoured; and
- (e) if so, whether Government would see that these musicians are honoured without much delay?

**MINISTER OF STATE (IC) FOR CULTURE & TOURISM AND
MINISTER OF STATE FOR CIVIL AVIATION**

(DR. MAHESH SHARMA)

ANSWER

- (a)&(b): Yes, Sir. Sangeet Natak Akademi (SNA), an autonomous organization of Ministry of Culture confers SNA fellowships and Awards and Ustad Bismillah Khan Yuva Puraskar on performing arts on the basis of guidelines of both the Awards which are attached at Annexure.
- (c): No, Sir.
- (d)&(e): The Akademi confers Fellowships and Awards every year on the basis of nominations by its members of Executive Board, General Council and also by past Fellows and Awardees, apart from Secretary (Culture) of all states, State Akademies & Vice-Chancellor of Universities. The SNA calls for nominations and recommendations as per norms within a stipulated time period. The award for the year 2015 has been declared on 20th April 2016. The selected artists for the year 2015 will be honoured by the President of India on the date decided by the President's Secretariat. The Akademi is now ready to call nominations for the year 2016.

**Annexure referred to in reply to parts (a)&(b) of the Rajya Sabha Unstarred
Question No. 354 for answer on 27.04.2016**

**REVISED GUIDELINES FOR ELECTION OF AKADEMI RATNA (AKADEMI FELLOW) AND SELECTION
OF AKADEMI PURASKAR (AKADEMI AWARDS) APPROVED BY THE GENERAL COUNCIL OF SANGEET
NATAK AKADEMI ON 25 MARCH 2003**

Preamble

Sangeet Natak Akademi honours each year eminent practitioners of music, dance and theatre as also those who serve these arts with distinction in other capacities. Akademi honours – Akademi Ratna and Akademi Puraskar – have been conferred from 1952, which not only symbolize the highest standard of excellence and achievements on a national basis but also recognize the sustained individual work of the highest professional order and contribution to the practice and appreciation of these arts through teaching and scholarship.

- **Description of Akademi Ratna (Akademi Fellows) and Akademi Puraskar (Akademi Awards)**

AKADEMI RATNA (AKADEMI FELLOWS)

The Akademi Ratna (Fellow) may be conferred, as per the existing constitutional provision under Rule 12(vi) of the Rules and Regulations of the Akademi, which reads as under:

“To elect, by a majority of at least three – fourth of the members present and voting, artistes of outstanding merit in the field of Music, Dance and Drama or such persons as have rendered outstanding service to the cause of music, dance & drama through their scholarship, research or original contributions as Fellows of the Akademi, provided they have been recommended for the election by the Executive Board and provided further the number of Fellows shall at no time exceed thirty.”

Note: The General Council on 25 March 2003 however recommended that the number of Akademi Ratna (Fellow) may be restricted to 40 living persons if not 60 at any given time. This is subject to the approval of the Department of Culture, Government of India.

(The Executive Board of the Sangeet Natak Akademi at its meeting held on 8 October 2009 resolved that the ceiling on number of Akademi Fellows may be increased from 30 to 40. The Board has also decided that additional 10 seats of Fellows created will be filled up in a phased manner over 5 years (2 seats each year).

(The Executive Board at its meeting held on 8 October 2009 also decided to increase the purse money from Rs 1,00,000/- to Rs 3,00,000/- for Fellows)

2. AKADEMI PURASKAR (AKADEMI AWARDS)

Akademi Awards may be conferred on eminent practitioners, gurus and scholars of music, dance and theatre for sustained individual achievement of high professional order.

3. Number and Categories of Akademi Puraskar (Akademi Awards)

The Akademi Awards may be conferred annually and the total number of Awards in a year shall not exceed 33.

(The number of Awards is increased from 33 to 36 by the Executive Board of the Sangeet Natak Akademi at its meeting held on 18 January 2011)

The Awards may be given in five Field of activity:

- Music
- Dance
- Theatre
- Other Traditional/Folk/Tribal/Dance/Music/Theatre and Puppetry
- Over all contribution/ Scholarship to Performing Arts.

Awards in each Field may be conferred in accordance with numbers and Categories mentioned in Paras 3(A), 3(B), 3(C), 3(D) and 3(E)

3 (A) Field of activity: Music [Number of Puraskar (Awards) – 8]

(The number of Awards is increased from 8 to 9 by the Executive Board of the Sangeet Natak Akademi at its meeting held on 18 January 2011)

Categories of Puraskar (Awards):

- Hindustani Vocal
- Hindustani Instrumental
- Carnatic Vocal
- Carnatic Instrumental
- Creative & Experimental Music

(The Executive Board of the Akademi at its meeting held on 23 May 2014 has approved that sub-category 'Creative and Experimental Music' under the main category of Music may be read as 'Contemporary Music').

- Other Major Traditions of Music

3 (B) Field of activity: Dance [Number of Puraskar (Awards) – 8]

(The number of Awards is increased from 8 to 9 by the Executive Board of the Sangeet Natak Akademi at its meeting held on 18 January 2011)

Categories of Puraskar (Awards):

- | | |
|------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. Bharatanatyam | 2. Kathak |
| 3. Kathakali | 4. Manipuri |
| 5. Kuchipudi | 6. Odissi |
| 7. Sattriya | 8. Mohiniattam |
| 9. Chhau | 10. Creative & Experimental |

(The Executive Board of the Akademi at its meeting held on 23 May 2014 has approved that sub-category 'Creative and Experimental Dance' under the main category of Dance may be read as 'Contemporary Dance').

11. Other Major Traditions of Dance and Dance Music for Dance.

3 (C) Field of activity: Theatre [Number of Puraskar (Awards) – 8]

Categories of Puraskar (Awards):

- Playwriting
- Direction
- Acting
- Allied Theatre Arts- a) Lighting, b) Scenic Design, c) Costumes / Make-up and d) Music for theatre.
- Major Traditions of Theatre

3 (D) Field of activity: Traditional/Folk/Tribal/Dance/Music/Theatre and Puppetry

(Number of Awards – 8)

Categories of Puraskar (Awards):

- Other Traditional/Folk/Tribal/Music/Dance and Theatre (not covered under 3A, 3B & 3C) (Number of Awards – 6)
- 2. Puppetry / Mime / Allied arts of traditional forms e.g. Instrument making and Mask making etc. (Number of Awards – 2)

3 (E). Field of activity : Over all contribution/scholarship in Performing Arts

[Number of Puraskar (Award) –1]

(The number of Awards is increased from 1 to 2 by the Executive Board of the Sangeet Natak Akademi at its meeting held on 18 January 2011)

Awards shall not exceed the specified number in each of the Field of activities and Categories there under. Where the Categories are less than the number of Awards in a given Field, then efforts shall be made to get at least one Award to each category, but in no case should there be more than two Awards in any Category or

sub-category (except as earmarked in 3D). Diversion of Awards from one field or category to another would not be permissible.

4. Purse Money and other facilities for Akademi Ratna (Akademi Fellow) and Akademi Puraskar (Akademi Awards)

AKADEMI RATNA (AKADEMI FELLOW)

Each Akademi Ratna will carry monthly honorarium of Rs 10,000/- (Rupees Ten Thousand only) per month for life with escalation of 10% after every three years. A citation, an Angavastram and a Tamrapatra may also be given under the seal of the Akademi and the signature of its Chairman. Besides, they will also be given medical insurance cover upto Rupees One Lakh per annum.

Note: This is however subject to the approval of the Department of Culture, Govt. of India. Till such time the Fellows will continue to receive purse money as applicable to the Akademi Awardees. (The proposal of monthly honorarium has not been implemented. Meanwhile the purse money for Akademi Fellows has been enhanced to Rs 3.00 lac by the Executive Board on 8 October 2009)

AKADEMI PURASKAR (AKADEMI AWARDS)

Each Akademi Puraskar (Awards) will carry an amount of Rs 50,000/- (Rupees Fifty Thousand only) in cash, a Citation, an Angavastram and a Tamrapatra to be issued under the seal of the Akademi and the signature of its Chairman. Besides, they will also be eligible for medical insurance cover upto Rupees One Lakh per annum. (The Executive Board at its meeting held on 8 October 2009 decided to increase the purse money from Rs 50,000/- to Rs 1,00,000/-)

5. ELIGIBILITY

- The Akademi Ratna and Awards are open to all regardless of nationality race, caste, religion, creed or sex.
- An association institution or organization is not eligible for Akademi Ratna or Akademi Puraskar (Akademi Award.).
- No person below the age of 50 will ordinarily be considered for Akademi Ratna, a person considered for an Award will ordinarily be at least 40 years of age.
- A deceased person cannot be considered for Akademi Ratna or Akademi Puraskar (Akademi Award). However, if the death of the person occurs subsequent to the decision of the General Council of the Akademi, the Akademi Ratna/Award will be conferred posthumously.
- A person who has received an Award will not be eligible for the award in any category in subsequent years.
- A recipient of Akademi Ratna will not be eligible for an Akademi Puraskar (Akademi Award) at any stage.
- The members of the General Council will not be eligible for being considered for Akademi Ratna (Fellow) or Akademi Puraskar (Akademi Award) and they may be informed about this provision in writing at the time of their nomination / election to the Executive Board / General Council.
- If two or more persons are jointly engaged in artistic pursuit in any of the categorized area under consideration, the Award may be given to them jointly.
- Akademi Ratna and Akademi Puraskar (Akademi Awards) do not pertain to any single work or achievement but to significant and lasting contribution on a sustained basis over a period of time.
- Canvassing in any form will be treated as disqualification.

6. PROCEDURE FOR NOMINATION AND ELECTION

(A) AKADEMI RATNA (AKADEMI FELLOW)

i) Competence to submit proposals for Akademi Ratna shall be enjoyed by:

- Ratna Sadasya (Akademi Fellows)
- Members of the General Council of the Akademi

Note : No new nominations would be considered either by the Executive Board or by the General Council after expiry of the last date. However, Chairman, SNA will have the powers to propose new names for consideration of the Executive Board / General Council even at the time of the meeting.

(B) AKADEMI PURASKAR (AKADEMI AWARDS)

- Competence to submit proposals for Akademi Awards shall be enjoyed by:
 - Akademi Ratna Sadasya.
 - Members of the General Council of the Akademi.
 - Chairman/Presidents of State Akademies.
 - Secretaries in the States/Union Territories of the Department of Culture.
 - Heads of Universities/Deans of the Performing Arts.
 - Eminent scholars, experts in the field of performing arts.
 - The names recommended by the Executive Board and not accepted by the General Council in previous five year will automatically be listed for the short listing along with the fresh nominations received.

•Every year the Akademi shall invite nominations for Akademi Puraskar (Akademi Awards) by a specified date and the nominations received in accordance with clause 6(i) will be placed before the Executive Board for short listing of the names for consideration by the General Council. No new nominations would be considered either by the Executive Board or by the General Council after expiry of the last date. However, Chairman, SNA will have the powers to propose new names for consideration of the Executive Board / General Council even at the time of the meeting.

- iii) Efforts should be made to have unanimity in the Executive Board and the General Council but in case unanimity cannot be reached than the opinion of the 3/4th members present shall be called as provided in Clause 12 (vi) of the Rules and Regulations of the Akademi. The decision of the General Council will be final and no appeal or protest can be made against it.

•Persons recommended by the Executive Board in the preceding five years but not selected by the General Council may be considered in the following years.

(C) Members of the Executive Board, General Council and officers of the Akademi will not reveal or make public the discussions, deliberations, and proceedings of the General Council in connection with the election of Akademi Ratna and selection of the Akademi Award except with the prior approval of the Chairman, SNA.

•PRESENTATION CEREMONY

- The presentation of Akademi Ratna and Puraskar (Awards) will be made at a Ceremony in New Delhi or any other place as decided by the Chairman of the Akademi.
- The President of India/Vice-President of India/Prime Minister of India or any eminent personality in the field will be invited to confer the honours.
- The Akademi Ratna and Akademi Puraskar (Akademi Awards) shall be invited to receive the honours in person. As far as possible each Akademi Ratna and Awardee will be invited to give public performance at a festival of music, dance and theatre to be organized by the Akademi following the Puraskar (Award) presentation ceremony.

•GENERAL

The Executive Board of the Akademi will have the right to amend any clause or clauses in the guidelines.

GUIDELINES

USTAD BISMILLAH KHAN YUVA PURASKAR

Preamble:

Sangeet Natak Akademi has decided to institute "Ustad Bismillah Khan Yuva Puraskar" from the year 2006 to be awarded to artists who have shown / demonstrated conspicuous talent in the fields of music, dance and drama. Young outstanding practitioners upto the age of 40 years will be eligible to be considered for Yuva Puraskar every year. Age as on the date of nomination received will be reckoned from 1st April of that year.

1. Number and Fields / Categories of Ustad Bismillah Khan Yuva Puraskar

Yuva Puraskar will be given annually and the total number of Yuva Puraskar in a year shall not exceed 33. The Yuva Puraskar may be given in the following five Fields of activity:

- Music
- Dance
- Theatre
- Other Traditional / Folk/ Tribal/ Dance/ Music/ Theatre and Puppetry
- Contribution / Scholarship in Performing Arts

Yuva Puraskar may be given in accordance with numbers and Categories mentioned below:

2A) Field of activity: Music (Number of Yuva Puraskar – 8)

Categories of Yuva Puraskar:

- | | |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. Hindustani Vocal | 2. Hindustani Instrumental |
| 3. Carnatic Vocal | 4. Carnatic Instrumental |
| 5. Creative & Experimental Music | |

(The Executive Board of the Akademi at its meeting held on 23 May 2014 has approved that sub-category 'Creative and Experimental Music' under the main category of Music may be read as 'Contemporary Music').

2B) Field of activity: Dance (Number of Yuva Puraskar – 8)

Categories of Yuva Puraskar:

- | | |
|---------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. Bharatanatyam | 2. Kathak |
| 3. Kathakali | 4. Manipuri |
| 5. Kuchipudi | 6. Odissi |
| 7. Sattriya | 8. Mohiniattam |
| 9. Chhau | 10. Creative & Experimental* |
| 11. Music for Dance | |

(The Executive Board of the Akademi at its meeting held on 23 May 2014 has approved that sub-category 'Creative and Experimental Dance' under the main category of Dance may be read as 'Contemporary Dance').

2C) Field of activity: Theatre (Number of Yuva Puraskar – 8)

Categories of Yuva Puraskar:

- Playwriting
- Direction
- Acting
- Allied Theatre Arts – a) Lighting, b) Scenic Design, c) Costumes, d) Make-up, and e) Music for Theatre
- Major Traditions of Theatre

2D) Field of activity: Traditional / Folk / Tribal Dance/ Music/ Theatre and Puppetry (Number of Yuva Puraskar - 8)

Categories of Yuva Puraskar:

- Other Traditional / Folk / Tribal/ Music/ Dance and Theatre (not covered under 2A, 2B, and 2C) (Number of Yuva Puraskar – 6)

- Puppetry /Mime/ Allied arts of traditional forms e.g. Instrument making and Mask making (Number of Yuva Puraskar – 2)

2E) Field of Activity: Contribution / Scholarship in Performing Arts (Number of Yuva Puraskar – 1)

3. Yuva Puraskar shall not exceed the specified number in each of the field of activities and categories there under where the categories are less than the number of Yuva Puraskar in a given field, then efforts shall be made to get at least one Puraskar to each category, but in no case should there be more than two Puraskar in any Category or sub category (except as earmarked in 2D). Diversion of Yuva Puraskar from one field to another would not be permissible.

4. PRIZE MONEY

Each Yuva Puraskar will carry a prize money of Rs 25000/- (Rupees twenty five thousand only) and a tamrapatra to be issued under the seal of Akademi and signature of its Chairman.

5. ELIGIBILITY

- “Ustad Bismillah Khan Yuva Puraskar” is open to all Indian nationals upto 40 years of age. Puraskar would not be given posthumously.
- A person who has received the Puraskar once will not be eligible for the same Puraskar under any other field / category.
- The members of the General Council will not be eligible for being considered for the Yuva Puraskar.

6. PROCEDURE FOR NOMINATION AND SELECTION:

- The following shall have the right to nominate names for Yuva Puraskar:
 - Akademi Ratna Sadasya and Awardees
 - Members of the General Council of the Akademi
 - Chairman / Presidents of State Akademies
 - Secretaries in the States / Union Territories of the Department of Culture
 - Heads of Departments of Performing Arts in recognized Universities / deemed Universities
 - Eminent scholars, experts in the field of performing arts.

The nominations by the above authorities may be accompanied with reasoned justification together with full documentation including proof of age etc.

•Every Year the Akademi shall invite nominations for “Ustad Bismillah Khan Yuva Puraskar” by a specified date and the nominations received in accordance with clause 6 (i) will be placed before the Executive Board for short listing of the names for consideration by the General Council. No new nominations would be considered either by the Executive Board or by the General Council after expiry of the last date. However, Chairman of the Akademi may propose or recommend new names should the need arise in any specific field or area where suitable nominations have not been made or recommended within the specified date.

•Efforts should be made to have unanimity in the Executive Board and the General Council but in case unanimity cannot be reached then the opinion of the 3/4th members present shall be called. The decision of the General Council will be final and no appeal or protest can be made against it.

•Members of the Executive Board, General Council and officers of the Akademi will not reveal or make public the discussions, deliberations, and proceedings of the General Council in connection with the selection of “Ustad Bismillah Khan Yuva Puraskar” unless authorized by Chairman, SNA to do so.

7. PRESENTATION CEREMONY

- The presentation of Yuva Puraskar will be made at a ceremony in New Delhi or any other place as decided by the Chairman of the Akademi.
- The recipients of Yuva Puraskar shall be invited to receive the Puraskar in person. As far as possible each recipient of Yuva Puraskar will be invited to give public performance at the festival of music, dance and theatre to be organized by the Akademi following the Puraskar Presentation Ceremony of at a later date.

8. GENERAL

- The Executive Board of the Akademi will have the right to amend any clause or clauses in the guidelines.