

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS & SPORTS  
DEPARTMENT OF SPORTS**

**LOK SABHA**

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3849  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 03.01.2019**

**Criteria for Arjun Awards**

**3849. DR. MAMTAZ SANGHAMITA :**

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

**(a) the criteria adopted by the Government for selection of sportspersons for Arjun Awards and other sports awards;**

**(b) whether para-athletes are also considered for these awards and if so, the details thereof;**

**(c) whether the Paralympics Committee of India had written to the Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports requesting for postponement of Arjuna Awards ceremony and requested to conduct it after conclusion of 2018 Asian Para Games so that para-athletes could also be considered for these awards for the year 2018 and if so, the details thereof alongwith the reaction of the Government thereto?**

**(d) whether the performance of only able-bodied sportspersons was considered for these awards for 2018 excluding the para-athletes and if so, the reasons therefor;**

**(e) whether the Government proposes to conduct the National Para Games during the year 2019 on the lines of National Games and Khelo India Games for able-bodied sportspersons; and**

**(f) if so, the details thereof?**

**ANSWER**

**THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENTCHARGE)  
FOR YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS  
[COL. RAJYAVARDHAN RATHORE (Retd.)]**

**(a) Details of criteria, as prescribed in the Schemes of Sports awards namely Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna, Arjuna Awards,**

**Dronacharya Awards and Dhyan Chand Awards are given in the Annexure.**

**(b) Yes, Madam. The para-athletes are also considered for the sports awards. In fact, the Scheme of Arjuna Awards provides that at least one award is to be given exclusively for sports for physically challenged.**

**(c) As Sports Awards are conferred by the President of India and the President's Secretariat had confirmed the date for giving sports awards on 25<sup>th</sup> September 2018 as against 29<sup>th</sup> August, birthday of Late Major Dhyan Chand, on which the awards are generally conferred.**

**As last four years' achievements are considered for Arjuna Awards, medal winners of Para-Asian Games have not been deprived of being considered for Arjuna Award, as they can apply for Arjuna Awards next year and in subsequent years till they are eligible to apply in terms of provisions of the Scheme.**

**(d) No Madam. The performances of all the eligible sportspersons including the para-athletes were considered and in fact, two para sportspersons were among those conferred with Arjuna Awards 2018.**

**(e) and (f) Organizing National Games is the prerogative of the Indian Olympic Association. In case of Para National Games, the Paralympic Committee of India has to take a decision. As regards, organizing of Khelo India Games for para-athletes, there is no proposal at present under consideration.**

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**Annexure referred to in reply to Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 3849 to be answered on 03.01.2019 regarding criteria for Arjun Awards by Dr. Mamta Sanghamita**

<b>S. No.</b>	<b>Name of the Award</b>	<b>Eligibility criteria as per the provisions of the Schemes of the Sports Awards</b>
1.	Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna	<p>(i) Spectacular and most outstanding performance in the field of sports by a sportsperson over a period of four years immediately preceding the year during which award is to be given shall be honoured with the Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award for excellence in Sports &amp; Games at international level i.e. Olympic/Asian/Commonwealth/World Games/Championships/World Cup and equivalent recognized international tournaments.</p> <p>(ii) Sportspersons who have been penalized or against whom enquiry is pending/ongoing for use of drugs/substances banned by the World Anti Doping Agency (WADA) based on a sample collected by the National Anti Doping Agency (NADA) or any other agency authorized by WADA and tested by National Dope Testing Laboratory or any other WADA accredited laboratory, will not be eligible for the Award.</p>
2.	Arjuna Awards	<p>(i) To be eligible for the Award, a sportsperson should have had not only good performance over the previous four years at the International level but also should have shown qualities of leadership, sportsmanship and a sense of discipline.</p> <p>(ii) Sportspersons who have been penalized or against whom enquiry is pending/ongoing for use of drugs/substances banned by the World Anti Doping Agency (WADA) based on a sample collected by the National Anti Doping Agency (NADA) or any other agency authorized by WADA and tested by National Dope Testing Laboratory</p>

		<p>or any other WADA accredited laboratory, will not be eligible for the Award.</p> <p>(iii) The Government will only consider conferring Arjuna Award in the disciplines falling under following categories : -</p> <p>(a) Olympic Games/Asian Games/Commonwealth Games/ World Cup/World Championship disciplines and cricket or any equivalent recognized international Tournament,</p> <p>(b) Indigenous Games,</p> <p>(c) Sports for physically challenged.</p>
3.	Dronacharya Awards	<p>(i) To be eligible for the award, coach, whether he/she works full time or part time as coach, he/she should have produced outstanding achievement over a period of four years immediately preceding the year in which the award is to be given. Nominated coach will have to submit details of periods for which he/she coached the disciple(s) in question against whose performance he/she is seeking the Award. The Ministry reserves the right to seek affidavit from the sportsperson concerned where it is found that more than one coach is claiming credit for achievements of a sportsperson.</p> <p>(ii) For 2 awards earmarked for lifetime contribution in coaching, achievements of the coach in producing outstanding sportspersons over a period of 20 years or more will be taken into account.</p> <p>(iii) A coach found encouraging the use of drugs/substances banned by the World Anti Doping Agency (WADA) based on a sample collected by the National Anti Doping Agency (NADA) or any other agency authorized by WADA and tested by National Dope Testing Laboratory or any other WADA accredited laboratory, by a sportsperson whom he/she is coaching, will not</p>

		<p><b>be eligible for the Dronacharya Award. A coach against whom enquiry is going on/ pending in this regard will also be ineligible.</b></p> <p><b>(iv) Sportspersons who have already been conferred with Dhyan Chand Award will not be eligible to apply for Dronacharya Award.</b></p>
<b>4.</b>	<b>Dhyan Chand awards</b>	<p><b>(i) To be eligible for the Award, a sportsperson should have had not only good performance at international level but also should have continued to contribute to promotion of sports in his individual capacity even after his career as a sportsperson is over. A sportsperson should also have shown qualities of leadership, sportsmanship and sense of discipline.</b></p> <p><b>(ii) Sportspersons who have been penalized or against whom enquiry is pending or going on for use of drugs/substances banned by the World Anti Doping Agency (WADA) based on a sample collected by the National Anti Doping Agency (NADA) or any other agency authorized by WADA and tested by the National Dope Testing Laboratory or any other WADA accredited laboratory, will not be eligible for the Award.</b></p> <p><b>(iii) Sportspersons who have already been conferred either with Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna, Arjuna Award or Dronacharya Award will not be eligible to apply for Dhyan Chand Award.</b></p>

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