

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS  
(DEPARTMENT OF SPORTS)**

**LOK SABHA**

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.717  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 17.09.2020**

**Assistance to Sportspersons**

**717. DR. SUBHASH RAMRAO BHAMRE:  
DR. DNV SENTHILKUMAR S.:  
SHRIMATISUPRIYA SULE:  
SHRI MANICKAM TAGORE B.:  
DR. AMOL RAMSING KOLHE:  
SHRI KULDEEP RAI SHARMA:**

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

**(a) whether the Government has constituted a single selection committee for selecting awardees for various sports awards for the year 2020 and if so, the details thereof alongwith its composition;**

**(b) the number of persons in various categories who will be shortlisted to be given sports awards for the year 2020;**

**(c) whether many of the sportspersons after retirement are forced to live in poverty as there is no support from the Government and if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;**

**(d) whether the Government will provide assistance for livelihood to these sportspersons after their retirement as they are suffering a lot due to covid-19 pandemic and if so, the details thereof; and**

**(e) the other steps taken by the Government to encourage more persons to take up sports as their career and offering them good financial remuneration during their active participation in the sports and after their retirement?**

**ANSWER**  
**THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE)**  
**FOR YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS**  
**[KIREN RIJIJU]**

**(a): Yes Sir. Department of Sports has constituted Selection Committee for selecting awardees for National Sports Awards 2020. The composition of the committee is given below:**

<b>S.No.</b>	<b>Name of the Members</b>	<b>Position</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Justice Mukundakam Sharma, Retired Justice, Supreme court</b>	<b>Chairperson</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Shri VirenderSehwag (Cricket)</b>	<b>Member</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>Shri Sardar Singh (Hockey)</b>	<b>Member</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>Ms MonalisaBaruah Mehta (Table Tennis)</b>	<b>Member</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>Ms Deepa Malik (Para Athletic)</b>	<b>Member</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>Shri VenkatesanDevarajan (Boxing)</b>	<b>Member</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>Shri Manish Batavia, Sports Commentator</b>	<b>Member</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>Ms Neeru Bhatia, Sports Journalist</b>	<b>Member</b>
<b>9</b>	<b>Shri Alok Sinha, Sports Journalist</b>	<b>Member</b>
<b>10</b>	<b>Shri Sandip Pradhan, Director General, SAI</b>	<b>Member</b>
<b>11</b>	<b>Commander (Retd.) Rajesh Rajagopalan CEO, TOPS</b>	<b>Member</b>
<b>12</b>	<b>Shri L.S. Singh, Joint Secretary (Development)</b>	<b>Member Secretary</b>

**(b): The National Sports Awards ceremony 2020 was held on 29<sup>th</sup> August, 2020 virtually and following numbers of sportspersons/entities were**

**awarded different sports awards. The details are given below: -**

<b>S. No.</b>	<b>Name of Sports Award</b>	<b>No. of Sports Persons given Awards/entities</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award</b>	<b>05</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Dronacharya Award (Regular Category)</b>	<b>05</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>Dronacharya Award (Life Time category)</b>	<b>08</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>Arjuna Award</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>Dhyan Chand Award</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>Rashtriya Khel Protsahan Puruskar Award</b>	<b>05</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>MaulanaAbulKalam Azad (MAKA) Trophy</b>	<b>01</b>

**(c) to (e): This Ministry is implementing the Scheme of ‘Pension to Meritorious Sportspersons’ for providing lifelong monthly pension to medal winners of Olympic Games, Asian Games, Commonwealth Games, etc. after they retire from active sports and the Scheme of ‘Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay National Welfare Fund for Sportspersons’ (PDUNWFS)’ for providing financial assistance to sportspersons of yesteryears now living in indigent circumstances. Further, Government has enhanced the prize money of National Sports Awards recently i.e. for Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award from Rs 7.5 lakh to Rs 25 lakh, for Dronacharya Award (Regular Category) from Rs 5 lakh to Rs 10 lakh, for Dronacharya Award (Lifetime Category) from Rs 5 lakh to Rs 15 lakh, for Arjuna Award from Rs 5 lakh to Rs 15 lakh and for Dhyan Chand Award from Rs 5 lakh to Rs**

**10 lakh. Further, Cash award is given to the sportspersons for winning medals in international sports events under 'The Special Awards to Medal winners in International Sports events and their Coaches Scheme'. There is provision of upto 5% reservation in direct recruitment in Group 'C' posts for meritorious sportspersons in Central Government. On this, recently, the Government has also increased the number of sports discipline from 43 to 63 in the list of games. Further under the National Sports Development Fund(NSDF), Special assistance is also provided for various sports promotion activities.**

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