

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2480

ANSWERED ON:19.03.2002

NATIONAL AWARDS

BRIJLAL KHABRI;RAGHURAJ SINGH SHAKYA;SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV (PATIL)

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the basis and the standards adopted by the Government while conferring the National Awards like Bharat Ratan, Padam Bhushan, Padam Vibhushan and Padamshree;

(b) whether the Government propose to amend the rules in regard to conferring of these in view of the controversies surrounding them for the last few years; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D.SWAMI)

(a) The Statutes and Rules relating to Bharat Ratna and Padma Awards are contained in the Notification Nos. 1-Pres./55, 2-Pres./55, 3-Pres./55 and 4-Pres./55, issued by the President's Secretariat on 8th January, 1955. Regulation 5 of each of the four Notifications explains the nature of the service for which the decoration shall be awarded. Thus-

(i) In case of Bharat Ratna: `The decoration shall be awarded for exceptional service towards the advancement of Art, Literature and science, and in recognition of public service of the highest order`.

(ii) In case of Padma Vibhushan: `The decoration shall be awarded for exceptional and distinguished service in any field including service rendered by Government servants`.

(iii) In case of Padma Bhushan: `The decoration shall be awarded for distinguished service of a high order in any field including service rendered by Government servants`.

(iv) In case of Padma Shree: `The decoration shall be awarded for distinguished service in any field including service rendered by Government servants`.

The recommendations for the award of Bharat Ratna are made to the President by the Prime Minister himself who is free to consult anyone he chooses. No formal recommendations for this are necessary.

The recommendations for the Padma awards are made by the Padma Awards Committee consisting of distinguished persons. The Committee applies the highest standards while selecting persons for the awards.

(b) & (c) There is no such proposal at present.