

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4242
ANSWERED ON:20.12.2011
BHARAT RATNA AWARD
Anuragi Shri Ghansyam ;Gohain Shri Rajen

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the procedure/criteria adopted for conferring `Bharat Ratna` award;
- (b) whether requests have been received from various quarters to confer the above award to some personalities of international repute;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the steps being taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN)

(a) to (d): Bharat Ratna, the highest civilian award of the country, is awarded in recognition of exceptional service/performance of the highest order in any field of human endeavour. In terms of extant practice, the Prime Minister makes the recommendations for Bharat Ratna Award to the President and the names for the Bharat Ratna award are announced by the President's Secretariat after obtaining the approval of the President. The Prime Minister is free to consult or obtain advice from any one he chooses. No formal recommendation is required for Bharat Ratna. As per extant practice, all the recommendations received in the Ministry for Bharat Ratna are sent to the Prime Minister's Office.