

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1005
ANSWERED ON:20.03.2012
CRITERIA FOR BHARAT RATNA
Yadav Shri Ranjan Prasad

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has modified the eligibility criteria for the Bharat Ratna to include sportspersons in its ambit;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the details of individuals who have been awarded the Bharat Ratna since its institution?

Answer

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

(a) & (b): The eligibility criteria for Bharat Ratna earlier was exceptional service towards the advancement of Art, Literature and Science, and in recognition of public service of the highest order. With the approval of the President of India this eligibility criteria has been modified with effect from November 18, 2011, according to which Bharat Ratna is to be awarded in recognition of exceptional service/performance of the highest order in any field of human endeavour.

(c): A list of Bharat Ratna awardees is annexed.