

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1659
ANSWERED ON:16.12.2013
CRITERIA FOR ARJUNA AWARD
Yadav Shri M. Anjan Kumar

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

- (a) whether the Government is considering to change the criteria for conferring `Arjuna Award`;
- (b) the existing norms/criteria fixed for recommendations/nominations of eligible sports persons for `Arjuna Award` and other sports awards;
- (c) the procedure being adopted for selection of award after receipt of nominations/recommendations;
- (d) the reasons for not including some games like Tennis and Carrom for awarding Arjuna Awards;
- (e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government for inclusion of more games in the selection process and for making the said process more transparent; and
- (f) the details of Arjuna Award issued/ conferred to the eligible sports persons during each of the last three years and the current year, sports discipline-wise?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI JITENDRA SINGH)

- (a): Review of various Schemes of the Ministry including that of Arjuna Award is an ongoing process, wherein the schemes are reviewed/modified from time to time.
- (b): Existing eligibility criteria for National Sports Awards viz. Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award, Dhyanchand Award, Dronacharya Award and Arjuna Award are given in Annexure.
- (c): All nominations received from the National Sports Federations, Sports Control Boards, IOA, State/UT Governments and Sports Authority of India are sent to the Sports Authority of India for scrutiny/verification of achievements. Thereafter, A Screening Committee under the Chairmanship of Joint Secretary (Sports) and consisting of Government Observers of concerned sports disciplines and Director (Teams), SAI verifies the achievements. All nominations received are placed before the Selection Committees which are constituted as per provisions of the respective schemes. Selection Committees give their recommendations on the basis of evaluation and assessment of performance, achievements, etc. Recommendations of Selection Committees are approved by the Minister- in-charge of the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports.
- (d): Players from Carrom and Tennis are also eligible to apply for Arjuna Award. In the past, players from these disciplines have been given Arjuna Awards.
- (e): As per the Scheme of Arjuna Awards, disciplines falling under the following categories are to be considered for Arjuna Awards :
 - # Olympic Games/Asian Games/Commonwealth Games/World Cup/World Championship disciplines and cricket or any equivalent recognized international tournament.
 - # Indigenous Games
 - # Sports for Physically challengedAs the list of sports disciplines considered for Arjuna Awards is quite exhaustive, there is no proposal to include more sports disciplines for Arjuna Awards. The Selection process is transparent and is based on careful assessment and evaluation of performance, achievements etc. of the nominees.
- (f): The details of Arjuna Award conferred to the eligible sports persons during each of the last three years and the current year, sports discipline-wise are given in the table below:

S. No.	Sports Discipline	Number of Sportspersons			
		Year 2010	Year 2011	Year 2012	Year 2013
1	Archery	0	1	2	1
2	Athletics	2	2	2	0

3	Badminton	0	1	2	1
4	Boxing	1	1	1	1
5	Billiards & Snooker	0	0	1	1
6	Chess	1	0	0	1
7	Cricket	1	1	1	1
8	Football	1	1	0	0
9	Gymnastics	0	1	0	0
10	Golf	0	0	0	1
11	Hockey (Men/Women)	2	1	1	1
12	Judo	0	0	1	0
13	Kabaddi	1	2	1	0
14	Polo	0	0	1	0
15	Shooting	1	1	3	1
16	Squash	0	0	1	1
17	Swimming	1	1	1	0
18	Table Tennis	0	0	0	1
19	Tennis	0	1	0	0
20	Volleyball	1	1	0	0
21	Wrestling	1	1	3	2
22	Weightlifting	0	1	1	0
23	Wushu	0	1	1	0
24	Yatching	1	0	0	0
25	Para-Sports	1	1	2	1
	TOTAL	15	19	25	14