

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
HOME AFFAIRS  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1273  
ANSWERED ON:14.07.2009  
ABSENCE OF CRICKETERS IN PADMA AWARD FUNCTIONS  
Vinay Kumar Alias Vinnu Shri

**Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether some cricketers avoided attending functions organised to distribute Padma Awards; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto?

**Answer**

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

(a) & (b): Shri Mahendra Singh Dhoni and Shri Harbhajan Singh did not attend the Padma Awards Ceremony, 2009 due to personal reasons. It is not unusual for a few persons to convey their inability to attend the ceremony every year due to constraints like preoccupation, old age, ill health etc.

In terms of extant instructions and practice, in the case of such awardees who are not able to attend the ceremony, the decoration of the award is delivered to them through a senior representative of the Central/State Government depending on the place of domicile of the awardee.