

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4581
ANSWERED ON:19.12.2014
AWARDS FOR WOMEN EMPOWERMENT
Sreeramulu Shri B.

Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has instituted an award similar to the Stree Shakti Puruskar/Award as a mark of recognition of the contribution of women from each District in the field of women's empowerment;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the criteria and procedure adopted for selecting such awardees; and
- (c) if not, the time by which such Puruskar/Award is likely to be instituted?

Answer

MINISTER OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA SANJAY GANDHI)

(a) Yes, Madam.

(b) The Ministry has instituted two awards viz.'Rajya MahilaSamman' (one in each State/UT) and 'ZilaMahila Samman' (one in each district). 'RajyaMahilaSamman' will carry a cash prize of Rs. 40,000/- and a scroll/citation. ZilaMahilaSamman will carry a cash prize of Rs. 20,000/- and a scroll/citation.

The awardee should be above 21 years of age on 1st January 2014. She should be a resident, or have worked in that district for at least two years, and not have received the award earlier. Awardee should not be recommended for both District and State Level awards in the same year.

For District award, Collector/ Deputy Commissioner will constitute a Selection Committee comprising (i) Collector/ Deputy Commissioner (ii) two eminent women from the District, nominated by the Collector/Deputy Commissioner and (iii) District Programme Officer, ICDS.

The District level Committees will furnish to the State Govt. three names for the award and the State/UT Government select one name and inform the Ministry of Women & Child Development and Collector/Deputy Commissioner.

The State/UT Government (Women and Child Development Department) will carry out a similar exercise for at the State/ UT level for the State level award.

Award ceremonies for the district level award should be held at each district headquarter on International Women's Day (8th March every year). The State level awards would be presented at a function organised by the Government of India in New Delhi, on 8th March.

A copy of the guidelines is enclosed.

(c) The award has been instituted.

Guidelines for the processing and selection of recipients for the "ZilaMahilaSamman" and the "RajyaMahilaSamman"

1. Awards may be given for advocacy and awareness creation, motivation, community mobilisation, women's empowerment, skill development, training and capacity building and enterprise promotion in conjunction with tangible activities. Carrying out any one or more of these could be indicatively in fields such as health and hygiene, child sex ratio, women safety and survival, education, nutrition, environment, water management, social security. They could be in any area that affects the lives, livelihoods, status and dignity of women and girls. It could be action that seeks to remove gender asymmetries and attitudes towards women. Demonstrated innovation in any field could also be rewarded.

a) An area that merits special consideration is protecting women from violence and harassment, at home, in the workplace and everywhere in the public domain. The awards may recognize women who have shown exceptional courage, especially in adverse circumstances.

b) It is important to ensure that the most deserving, courageous and committed are recognized. There are some fields, which by themselves, would not be sufficient to consider and confer an award. Indicatively, these include achieving first position in school/college, organising a large number of classes on a subject/topic, participating in many programmes/cultural shows, association with a large number of organizations, being on a Board/ Executive Committee.

2. The awardee should be above 21 years of age on 1st January 2014. She should be a resident, or have worked in that District/ State/ UT for at least two years, and not have received the award earlier. Awardees should not be recommended for both District and State level awards in the same year.

The RajyaMahilaSamman (one in one each State/UT) will carry a cash prize of Rs.40, 000/- and a scroll/ citation. ZilaMahilaSamman (one in each district) will carry a cash prize of Rs.20, 000/- and a scroll/ citation.

3. At the State Government level, an advertisement containing the eligibility criteria, and the areas of awards will be issued in the leading newspapers as well as social media inviting applications from the eligible girls/women as per the timelines at Para 8 of the guidelines.

4. State Governments are requested to invite applications, preferably electronically, for the State awards, and for the district awards. The invitation for applications should be disseminated in the print media, including in the local language

(s), through the electronic media, and through social media networks.

5. For the District awards, Collectors/ Deputy Commissioners will constitute a Selection Committee, with the following composition: Collector/ Deputy Commissioner Chairperson Two eminent women from the District, to be nominated by the Collector/ Deputy Commissioner Members District Programme Officer, ICDS Member Secretary & Convener

a) District level Committees will furnish to the State Government, in order of their recommended priority, three names for the award from their district. The State Government will select one name for the award, and inform the Collector/ Deputy Commissioner and the Ministry of Women and Child Development, Government of India.

b) The State Government (Women and Child Development Department) will carry out a similar exercise at the State level for the State level award.

c) The money to be paid to the awardees would be transferred into their bank accounts, on 08 March, through electronic transfer. An announcement would be made at the respective award ceremonies. The scroll/ citation would be presented at the award ceremony.

6. Award ceremonies for the district level award should be held at each district headquarter, on International Women's Day, 08 March every year. These ceremonies could be held in conjunction with other events that mark the day.

7. The State level awards would be presented at a function organized by the Government of India in New Delhi, on 08 March.

8. The time-lines are as follows (last dates):

Action	Last date
Constitution of Selection Committees at State & District levels	30th September
Issuance of advertisements/ information by State Governments/ UTs	15th October
Last date for receipt of applications	3rd November
Completion of scrutiny and processing	30th November
Finalisation of recommendations	15th December

Communication of names and details, including bank account details (number, branch, IFSC Code) of recommended awardees to the Ministry of Women and Child Development, Government of India by States	31st December
Award ceremonies	8th March of the following year

Application Form

Format for applications for Awards

- I. Name
- II. Date of Birth
- III. Mother's Name
- IV. Telephone No. (with code)
- V. Present address
- VI. Bank Account number, Bank branch and IFSC code

- VII. Field of Work and the location(s) at which you have worked
- VIII. A description of yourself, your goals and aspirations
- IX. Description of work done by you,
with timelines, collaborations, impact
and outcomes Please enclose
separately as Annexure
- X. References from two persons who
are aware of your work

Place: Applicants' Signature Date: