

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1837

TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 05TH AUGUST, 2015/SRAVANA 14, 1937 (SAKA)

CRITERIA SET FOR CIVILIAN AWARDS

†1837. SHRI MEGHRAJ JAIN:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the criteria set for the civilian awards *i.e.* Bharat Ratna and Padma Awards in the country;
- (b) whether complaints of partiality in the selection of names of the awardees for the above awards have been received;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of Government thereto; and
- (d) the mechanism established by Government to make this selection procedure transparent?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS
(KIREN RIJIJU)

(a): 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.

The Padma Awards are awarded, for 'exceptional and distinguished service' (Padma Vibhushan), for 'distinguished service of a high order' (Padma Bhushan) and for 'distinguished service' (Padma Shri), in any field of activity.

(b) to (d): A few complaints in this regard are received. However, the selection process is transparent. The recommendations for Bharat Ratna are made by the Prime Minister to the President. In case of Padma Awards, the recommendations are made by a high level committee which includes three official members and four to six nominated eminent persons. While there is no rigid criterion for selection of Padma Awards, the Awards Committee looks for life time achievement while making its recommendations. It is not merely excellence in a particular field, but the criterion is excellence plus.
