

During 2014-15, 2362 Tariff Lines were eligible for Duty Drawback which has been increased to 2434 Tariff Lines in 2015-16. There has been no deletion of any tariff line in 2015-16. The rates for 706 Tariff Lines (including new items) have been enhanced on 23.11.2015.

#### **Return of Sahitya Akademi awards**

\*185. DR. PRADEEP KUMAR BALMUCHU: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Sahitya Akademi has failed to perform its duty as the custodian of literary freedom, if so, the details thereof and the reasons for the writers returning their awards;

(b) whether the Akademi has really gone wrong in dealing with the matter, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of writers who have returned awards so far, the action being taken by Government to uphold the autonomy of the Sahitya Akademi and protect the freedom of the writers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE (DR. MAHESH SHARMA): (a) to (c) No, Sir. The return of awards is stated to be in protest against the recent mis-happenings against the writers, intellectuals and Akademi's silence on these issues. To take into consideration the said issue, the Akademi had called a special meeting of its Executive Board on 23.10.2015, which unanimously passed a Resolution, requesting the writers to re-consider their decision. Sahitya Akademi has also organized a homage meeting in Bengaluru on 30.09.2015 led by Dr. Chandrasekhar Kambar, Vice-President, Sahitya Akademi. The President of Sahitya Akademi in his statement dated 10.10.2015 has also condemned the violence and attack on writers and artists. So far a total of 39 writers have returned their awards. A list is given in the Statement (*See* below). Sahitya Akademi is an autonomous organization under the Ministry of Culture and takes its own decisions.

List of award winners who returned the Awards to the Akademi through official communication

Sl. No.	Name	Year of Award
<b>Hindi</b>		
1.	Uday Prakash	2010
2.	Ashok Vajpeyi	1994
3.	Krishna Sobti	1980

Sl. No.	Name	Year of Award
4.	Mangalesh Dabral	2000
5.	Kashinath Singh	2011
6.	Rajesh Joshi	2002
<b>English</b>		
7.	G.N. Devy	1993
8.	Nayantara Sahgal	1986
9.	Keki Daruwalla	1984
<b>Gujarati</b>		
10.	Anil Joshi	1990
<b>Punjabi</b>		
11.	Waryam Singh Sandhu	2000
12.	Surjit Patar	1993
13.	Jaswinder	2014
14.	Gurbachan Bhullar	2005
15.	Atamjit	2009
16.	Baldev Singh	2011
17.	Darshan Butter	2012
18.	Ajmer Singh Aulakh	2006
19.	Mohan Bhandari	1998
<b>Rajasthani</b>		
20.	Nand Bhardwaj	2004
21.	Ambikadutt	2013
<b>Kannada</b>		
22.	Kum Veerbhadrappa	2007
23.	Rahamat Tarikere	2010
24.	Devanuru Mahadeva	1990
<b>Kashmiri</b>		
25.	Ghulam Nabi Khayal	1976
26.	Margoob Banihali	1979
<b>Urdu</b>		
27.	Munawwar Rana	2014
28.	Khaleel Mamoon	2011

Sl. No.	Name	Year of Award
<b>Malayalam</b>		
29.	Sara Joseph	2003
<b>Assamese</b>		
30.	Homen Borgohain	1978
31.	Nirupama Borgohain	1996
<b>Telugu</b>		
32.	Katyayani Vidmahe	2013
<b>Translation Prize</b>		
<b>Hindi</b>		
33.	Chaman Lal	2001
<b>Kannada</b>		
34.	G.N. Ranganatha Rao	2014
<b>Marathi</b>		
35.	Ibrahim Afghan	2002
<b>Yuva Puraskar</b>		
<b>English</b>		
36.	Aman Sethi	2012
<b>Punjabi</b>		
37.	Pargat Singh Satauj	2012
<b>Bal Sahitya Puraskar</b>		
<b>Telugu</b>		
38.	M. Bhoopal Reddy	2011
<b>Golden Jubilee Award</b>		
39.	Mandakranta Sen	2004

#### Shortage of fire fighting equipments

\*186. SHRI P.L. PUNIA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the fact that there is a huge shortage of fire fighting equipments, personnel and fire fighting tenders/vehicles in the country;

(b) if so, the State-wise details thereof, for last three years;

(c) the State-wise total number of fire stations, in working condition according to national standards; and