

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS & SPORTS
(DEPARTMENT OF SPORTS)

RAJYA SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1593
TO BE ANSWERED ON 08.03.2021

Selection of Sportspersons

1593. Dr. Kirodi Lal Meena, Hon'ble Member of Parliament

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

- (a) whether Government has constituted a single Selection Committee for the selection of sportspersons to be awarded for various sports awards and if so, details thereof;
- (b) the number of sportspersons of various categories who would be chosen for sports awards for the year 2021;
- (c) whether many sportspersons are forced to live in poverty after retirement as they do not get assistance from the Government and if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and
- (d) Whether Government would provide assistance to sportspersons after their retirement as they are facing problems after COVID -19 pandemic and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER
THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE)
FOR YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS
[KIREN RIJJU]

(a) Yes, Sir. The Government had constituted a single Selection Committee for the selection of sportspersons to be awarded for various sports awards viz. Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award, Dronacharya Award, Arjuna Award, Dhyanchand Award, Rashtriya Khel Protsahan Puruskar and Maulana Abdul Kalam Azad (MAKA) Trophy for the year 2020. The 12 member Selection Committee was headed by Justice Mukundam Sharma, Retired Justice, Supreme Court of India. The other members of the Selection Committee included prominent sportspersons like Shri Virender Sehwal, Shri Sardar Singh, Ms Monalisa Baruah Mehta, Ms Deepa Malik and Shri Venkatesh Devarajan as well as Sports Commentator Shri Manish Batavia, Sports Journalists Alok Sinha and Neeru Bhatia. The ex-officio members of the Selection Committee included Director General, Sports Authority of India (SAI), CEO TOPS and Joint Secretary (Sports).

(b) Sir, number of sportspersons of various categories who would be chosen for sports awards for the year 2021 has not been decided yet.

(c) & (d) Sir, the cases of sportsperson living in indigent conditions coming to the notice of the Government and proposals received are proactively processed and financial assistance is provided upto Rs. 5 Lakh to yesteryear sportspersons living under indigent conditions under the Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyay National Welfare Fund for Sportspersons (PDUNWFS). In the current financial year as on 03.03.2021, assistance of Rs. 1,16,35,000 (One Crore Sixteen Lakh thirty five thousand) has already been sanctioned to various sportspersons. Apart from this, lifelong monthly pension is provided to sportspersons who have attained the age of 30 years or retired from active sports, whichever is later under the scheme of 'Sports Fund for Pension to Meritorious Sportspersons'.
