

PRESS INFORMATION BUREAU
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

ARJUNA AWARDS PRESENTED

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The 'Arjuna Awards' for the year 1980-81 to distinguished sportsmen and women were presented by the President, Shri Neelam Sanjiva Reddy at a special function in Rashtrapati Bhavan today.

Presenting the awards, the President said the ASIAD taking place in India this year offered a unique opportunity to our players and he hoped it will give the necessary fillip for the development of sports in the country. "We have large untapped potential in the rural areas and I am sure, when fully developed, rural areas will provide the country with a reservoir of good sportsmen and women", he added.

Speaking on the occasion, the Minister of State for Education and Social Welfare, Shrimati Shiela Kaul said 150 coaching camps have already been held to prepare our sportsmen and team for the forthcoming Asian Games. Special emphasis was being given to the promotion of sports among the women by organising a national sports festival for them. The plan

expenditure on

expenditure on promotion of sports had risen from Rs.114 lakhs in the Second Five Year Plan to Rs.1200 lakhs in the Sixth Five Year Plan. Added to this, will be non-Plan expenditure of Rs.173 lakhs per annum.

The awardees cover athletics, boxing, chess, cricket, football, hockey, kabaddi, tennis, badminton and wrestling. The awardees include two women, Kumari Rohini Khadilkar for chess, and Shrimati Eliza Nelson for hockey. Others include Gopal Saini (Athletics), Syed Modi (Badminton), Naik Issac Amaldass (Boxing), Chetandra Pratap Singh Chauhan and Syed Mujtaba Hussain Kirmani (Cricket), Mohaddmad Habib (Football), Mohammad Shahid (Hockey), Shantaram Jadhav (Kabaddi), Ramesh Krishnan (Lawn Tennis), Manjit Dua (Table Tennis), Jagminder Singh (Wrestling).

The Arjuna Awards were instituted in the year 1961 to honour outstanding sportsmen and women. So far, 251 sportsmen and women have been given these awards.

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