

Section - IV : Competence to Submit Proposals

1. Competence to submit proposals for the Award shall be of :
 - (i) Ministries of the Government of India with the approval of the Minister in charge of the Ministry.
 - (ii) State Governments/Union Territory Administrations with the approval of the concerned Chief Minister or Lt. Governors in UT Administrations;
 - (iii) Such Members of Parliament belonging to Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes category who are not a member of the Selection Committee;
 - (iv) Registered reputed NGOs working for the uplift of the Scheduled Castes in particular and for the weaker sections in general. However, such NGOs shall not be represented as members of either the Screening Committee or the Selection Committee;
 - (v) Any other person or institution designated by the Screening Committee and the Selection Committee.
2. Every year a circular letter to the aforesaid agencies will be issued by the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment (hereinafter referred to as "the Ministry") during the month of April, inviting nominations in accordance with the provisions of Sub-section 1 above. The requisite information shall be obtained in the prescribed proforma at **Annexure - I** (for NGOs) and **Annexure - II** (for Individual Human Rights Activists).
3. **Date for submission of proposal :** The Screening Committee and the Selection Committee shall consider such nominations as have been received in the Ministry, up to and including 31st October of the year for which the Award is to be given, unless the Chairperson of the Screening Committee is of the opinion that such time should be extended either in general or with reference to a particular nomination; in response to the Circular letter issued as referred to in Sub-section 2 above.
4. Ordinarily, only nominations/recommendations emanating from competent persons supported by adequate justification shall be considered. However, a nomination shall not be invalid for consideration by the Screening Committee merely on the ground of not having emanated from competent persons mentioned in Sub-section 1 of this Section. In all such cases, the decision of the Screening Committee shall be final.