

**Government of India
Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1785
TO BE ANSWERED ON 10.03.2025**

National Service Scheme for Youth Development

†1785. Shri Babu Singh Kushwaha:

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

(a) whether the Government is promoting National Service Scheme (NSS) for the development of youth and if so, the manner in which students have been benefitted under the said scheme;

(b) whether new steps have been taken by the Government for the welfare of the youths under Rashtriya Yuva Sashaktikaran Karyakram (RYSK);

(c) if so, the details of schemes being run under this programme along with the major benefits thereof;

(d) whether schemes like the National Youth Conference and National Youth Festival brought any significant change in the active participation and social development of youth and if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the details of the new schemes being proposed by the Government for the overall development of the youth along with the objective thereof?

ANSWER

**THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS
(DR. MANSUKH MANDAVIYA)**

(a) The Government is promoting National Service Scheme (NSS) for the development of youth. The sole aim of the NSS is to provide hands-on experience to young students in delivering community service. An NSS volunteer who takes part in these community service programmes would get the exposure and experience for his/her holistic development through NSS Regular & Special Camping programmes and also other special programmes like National Integration Camp, Adventure, Youth Festival, Republic Day Parade, Youth Parliament Festival etc.

(b) & (c) Yes. Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan (NYKS), an autonomous body under the Department, conducts programmes and activities through 623 District Nehru Yuva Kendras across the country. The principal objective of NYKS is to mobilize, motivate, organize youth of the country and enhance their capacities to empower them to become productive and responsible citizens, assume local leadership to act as active partners in the process of community development and nation building activities with the spirit of equity and volunteerism.

The details of new steps taken/ programmes conducted by NYKS for the welfare of the youths along with the major benefits of the programmes are as following:

- i. Viksit Bharat Ambassador - Yuva Connect: The main objective is to mobilize youth engagement and leadership towards India's vision of becoming a developed nation by 2047, focusing on economic, environmental, and governance domains. It also aimed to guide the youth about their responsibility towards achieving the goal of Viksit Bharat.**
- ii. Awareness and Education Programme on Drug-Addiction and Substance Abuse: The program aims to address drug addiction and substance abuse among youth through awareness and education programs, focusing on increasing awareness about harmful effects, promoting healthy alternatives, and developing life skills.**
- iii. Inter District Youth Exchange Programme: The objective of the Inter District Youth Exchange Programme (IDYEP) is to foster mutual understanding and appreciation among youth from different districts by providing a platform to exchange ideas, share experiences, and celebrate cultural diversity. It aims to strengthen national integration through interactive activities, including cultural exchanges, field visits, and discussions on traditions and customs.**
- iv. Inter State Youth Exchange Programme: The objective of the Inter State Youth Exchange Programme is to foster mutual understanding and appreciation among youth from different states by providing a platform to exchange ideas, share experiences, and celebrate cultural diversity. It aims to strengthen national integration through interactive activities, including cultural exchanges, field visits, and discussions on traditions and customs.**

- v. **Border Area Youth Exchange Programme: The Border Area Youth Exchange Programme (BAYEP) aims to promote national unity, integrity, and mutual understanding by engaging youth from border and non-border districts in cultural exchange, discussions on socio-economic issues, and awareness-building activities.**

In addition, International Cooperation scheme under the umbrella scheme of Rashtriya Yuva Sashaktikaran Karyakram (RYSK) endeavors to create an international perspective among youth in collaboration with other countries and international agencies/ organizations on various youth issues. Under this scheme, International Youth Exchange Programme (IYEP) with friendly countries are taken up on reciprocal basis for promoting exchange of ideas, values and culture amongst the youth of different countries and also to provide international exposure to the youth of India.

The Department of Youth Affairs currently have 32 Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) /Agreement on cooperation on youth matters with different countries and 10 more MoUs are in pipeline to be signed with other countries on Youth matters. The details of the Youth Exchange Programmes and Youth Summit held in this financial year are as under:

- i. **Two Indian Youth Delegates attended The Commonwealth Asia Regional Youth Leadership Summit in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia from 21-26 April, 2024.**
- ii. **Two Indian Youth Delegates attended Y20 Pre summit in Brazil from 17-20 June, 2024.**
- iii. **14-member Indian Youth Delegation visited Russia to participate in the 10th BRICS Youth Summit from 22-26 July, 2024.**
- iv. **Two Indian Youth Delegation Visited to Brazil to attend Y20 Summit from 10-17 August, 2024.**
- v. **1st BIMSTEC Youth Summit organized by India from 7-11 February, 2025.**
- vi. **21-member Poland Youth Delegation visited to India from 19-27 February, 2025.**
- vii. **100-member Central Asian Countries Youth Delegation is scheduled to India for 22-28 March, 2025.**

viii. 50-member Indian Youth Delegation to Nepal is scheduled for 23-29 March, 2025.

(d) This year, National Youth Festival (NYF) has been restructured and called Viksit Bharat Young Leaders Dialogue (VBYLD). VBYLD-2025 was an effort to broaden the NYF platform and engage with youth more intensively. It was an effort to align with the Prime Minister's Independence Day vision of engaging 1 lakh youth in public affairs, providing them with a national platform to create a meaningful sphere of national development and leadership for a developed India. In the dialogue, youth were encouraged to write about various aspects of Viksit Bharat. The dialogue encouraged them to dream big and work towards the vision of Viksit Bharat 2047.

VBYLD-2025 attracted 28,31,200 motivated youth nationwide, a total of around 2500 dynamic youth were selected to participate in the 28th National Youth Festival: Viksit Bharat Young Leaders Dialogue 2025, held from 10th -12th January, 2025, through a merit-based, multi-stage process, representing India's most vibrant demographic of youth aged 15-29. The presentations emerging out of the dialogue were made before Hon'ble Prime Minister. The VBYLD-2025 emerged as a landmark event, fostering the next generation of leaders, innovators and thinkers who will drive India's growth. Over 6 crore youth and others witnessed the event through various social media platforms.

(e) In order to harness the potential and to optimally tap constructive and creative energies of the youth, the Department of Youth Affairs under the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, pursues the twin objectives of personality-building and nation-building, that is, developing the personality of youth and involving them in various nation-building activities through its field organizations and various schemes such as NSS and NYKS.

Recently, an overarching enabling mechanism- Mera Yuva Bharat (MY Bharat), an autonomous body under the Department of Youth Affairs has been established, which is powered by technology, for youth development and youth led development through 'Kartavya Bodh' and 'Seva Bhaav', during the Amrit Kaal.

A digital platform for MY Bharat (<https://www.mybharat.gov.in/>) has been developed on which the youth across the country can register and signup for various volunteering opportunities being made available on the portal. The envisioned phygital (physical + digital) ecosystem is to empower young individuals to become catalysts for community transformation.
