

**Government of India
Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports
Department of Youth Affairs**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3832
TO BE ANSWERED ON 16/03/2026**

Viksit Bharat Young Leaders Dialogue

3832. SHRI KAMAKHYA PRASAD TASA:

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

(a) whether the Government has transformed the National Youth Festival as the Viksit Bharat Young Leaders Dialogue (VBYLD) and if so, the details thereof along with the objective of the said initiative;

(b) the selection procedure adopted for participants under VBYLD;

(c) the measures taken by the Government to ensure equitable and inclusive representation of talented youth from all sections of society;

(d) the number of youths reached or impacted through the VBYLD, so far;

(e) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to ensure participation of youth across the country, State/UT-wise including in rural areas; and

(f) the measures taken by the Government to ensure accessibility of the programme for youth from non-urban and underprivileged background?

ANSWER

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

(a) Yes Sir, the National Youth Festival (NYF) has been restructured as the Viksit Bharat Young Leaders Dialogue (VBYLD). The VBYLD 2026 was organised with the objective of providing a national platform for youth to deliberate on ideas and solutions aligned with the vision of Viksit Bharat @2047. The aim of Dialogue was to engage youth in public affairs, encourage leadership and innovation, and promote meaningful participation of young people in nation-building. Participants deliberated on key national development themes including innovation and entrepreneurship, sustainable development, women-led development, cultural diplomacy and building a future-ready workforce. It was held at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi during 9–12 January 2026.

(b) Youth leaders for VBYLD 2026 were selected through a merit-based, multi-stage process conducted through the MY Bharat and MyGov platforms. The process commenced with the Viksit Bharat Quiz hosted on the MY Bharat and MyGov platforms, which witnessed participation from more than 50 lakh youth from all States and Union Territories. Subsequently, 39,463 youth submitted essays through the MY Bharat portal. The third stage, the State-level PPT Challenge, further shortlisted participants based on their leadership qualities, clarity of vision and collaborative abilities. Approximately 3,000 selected youth were invited to participate in the national-level Dialogue held at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi during 9–12 January 2026.

(c), (e) & (f) The Government took several structural, technological and thematic measures to ensure equitable and inclusive participation of talented youth from all sections of society. The VBYLD Quiz recorded near-equal gender representation (51% male, 49% female) and a dedicated core theme on “Women-Led Development: The Key to Viksit Bharat” was included. The district-level competition structure mandated State Governments to ensure balanced representation across all districts, including aspirational ones, while a Cultural Track provided youth from tribal and traditional backgrounds a distinct entry point into the national-level dialogue.

To ensure pan-India participation and accessibility for youth from non-urban and underprivileged backgrounds through a bottom-up, multi-pronged approach. The MY Bharat and MyGov platforms served as

primary digital interfaces for registration and participation across all States and Union Territories.

To ensure accessibility for rural and geographically marginalised youth, the MY Bharat Portal was linked with Common Service Centres (CSCs), and over five lakh Village Level Entrepreneurs (VLEs) enabled youth in villages to register and participate from their nearest CSC. Essay submissions were accepted in all 22 scheduled Indian languages while the quiz was available in 12 languages, removing linguistic barriers for youth from marginalised communities.

(d) VBYLD 2026 collectively reached and impacted more than 50 lakh youth across all States and Union Territories through its multi-stage process. The previous edition, i.e. VBYLD 2025 had a participation of more than 28 lakh youth.
