

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4974
TO BE ANSWERED ON 23.03.2026**

Strengthening National Service Scheme

4974. SHRI RAO RAJENDRA SINGH:

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

(a) whether the Government has taken any steps to strengthen the National Service Scheme(NSS) and if so, the details thereof;

(b) the total number of institutions and volunteers registered under the NSS;

(c) whether the Government has observed any palpable difference between the volunteers initially registered under the said scheme and those who received a certificate of completion; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to remove such a difference and the incentives provided to the volunteers under the said scheme?

ANSWER

**THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS
[DR. MANSUKH MANDAVIYA]**

(a) Yes, Government has taken several steps to strengthen the National Service Scheme (NSS) across the country. The details are as follows:

- Expansion of Volunteer Strength: In 2022-23 Government enhanced the volunteer strength from 36 lakhs to 39 lakhs across various Senior Secondary Schools, Colleges, and Universities.**

- **The Government promotes setting up of Self-Funding Units (SFUs) of NSS in order to increase participation across Schools and Colleges. The institutions setting up the SFUs would need to raise necessary resources for running of the NSS unit on their own. Such institutions could, if necessary, charge a nominal fee for NSS programme activities.**

(b) The total number of Institutions registered under NSS in FY 2025-26 are 31,847. The total number of Volunteers registered under NSS during FY 2025-26 are 38,90,237.

(c) and (d) In accordance with NSS Manual, a student registered/enrolled in NSS has to undergo a special camp and complete 120 hrs of volunteer service each year for a period of two years to receive the NSS certificate. The incentives provided to the volunteers under the NSS are as follows :

- **Academic Weightage: Various States and Union Territories (UTs) provide incentives to NSS volunteers, such as weightage in marks/percentage (typically ranging from 1% to 5%) during admissions to higher education courses. Some states provide bonus marks in the recruitment of state government services.**
- **NSS Awards: The Ministry confers National Service Scheme Awards annually at the National level to 30 shortlisted volunteers to recognize their outstanding contributions including cash prizes and certificates. The award is presented by Hon'ble President of India.**
