

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS  
DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH AFFAIRS

LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 2543  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 10.5.2016

DEVELOPMENT OF ADOLESCENTS & YOUTHS

2543. SHRI MANOJ TIWARI:

- (a) whether the Government has started any flagship programme for the development of adolescents and youths of the country;
- (b) if so, the details including the objectives and salient features along with the financial allocation for the aforesaid programme; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR YOUTH AFFAIRS  
AND SPORTS  
(SHRI SARBANANDA SONOWAL)

(a, b & c) The Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports has a new umbrella Scheme called 'Rashtriya Yuva Sashaktikaran Karyakaram' (RYSK) along with two other schemes namely National Service Scheme (NSS) and Rajiv Gandhi National Institute of Youth Development (RGNIYD) for the development of adolescents and youth of the country. The proposed financial allocation for the above Schemes for 2016-17 is Rs. 500 crores under Plan and Rs. 96 crores under Non Plan. The details including the objectives and salient features of the above schemes are Annexed.

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## 1.Rashtriya Yuva Sashaktikaran Karyakram (RYSK)

### Background:

Youth represent the most dynamic and vibrant segment of the population. India is one of the youngest nations in the world and is expected to have a very favourable demographic profile in the time to come. In India, youth in the age-group of 15-29 years constitute 27.5% of the population. It is expected that by the year 2020, the population of India would have a median age of 28 years only as against 38 years for US, 42 years for China and as high as 48 years for Japan. This 'demographic dividend' offers a great opportunity.

The challenge before the nation is to develop and empower its huge youth population as productive work force. The Government has introduced National Youth Policy, 2014 with the VISION *"To empower youth of the country to achieve their full potential, and through them enable India to find its rightful place in the community of nations"*.

The Department of Youth Affairs has been operating a number of Schemes for development and empowerment of youth. Some of the Schemes have Annual Outlay of less than Rs.10 crores. In order to improve the effectiveness of these Schemes, it has been considered necessary to merge these Schemes into a single Scheme, which can act as the flagship scheme of the Department. This will help in achieving better synergies between the Schemes and thereby, improve their effectiveness and help in achieving better outcomes with the available resources.

### Scheme Beneficiaries:

The Scheme beneficiaries shall be the youth in the age-group of 15-29 years, in line with the definition of 'youth' in the National Youth Policy, 2014. In case of programme components

specifically meant for the adolescents, the age-group shall be 10-19 years.

Scheme Components:

The following existing Schemes/ Programmes shall get subsumed in the Rashtriya Yuva Sashaktikaran Karyakram (RYSK):

- Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan (NYKS).
- National Youth Corps (NYC).
- National Programme for Youth and Adolescent Development (NPYAD).
- International Cooperation (IC).
- Youth Hostels (YH).
- Assistance to Scouting and Guiding Organisations.
- National Discipline Scheme (NDS)
- National Young Leaders Programme (NYLP).

A broad outline of each of the above Scheme components is given below.

(a). Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan (NYKS):

NYKS, launched in 1972, is one of the largest youth organisations in the world. NYKS currently has about 8.43 million youth enrolled through 2.98 lakh youth clubs/ mahila mandals. NYKS has presence in 623 Districts through Nehru Yuva Kendras. The Objective is *to develop the personality and leadership qualities of the youth and to engage them in nation-building activities.*

NYKS, an autonomous organisation under the Department, is a Society registered under the Societies Registration Act, 1860. NYKS has a General Body and a Board of Governors (BoG). The Board of Governors is chaired by the Minister in-charge of Youth Affairs and Sports, with the Director General, NYKS acting as the Member-Secretary. The Director General, NYKS acts as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Organisation. NYKS has 29 Zonal Offices at State Level besides its National Headquarter at New Delhi. The activities of NYKS are carried out through a District Youth Coordinator (DYC) in each District (who is in-charge of the

Nehru Yuva Kendra in the District) and 2 National Youth Corps (NYC) volunteers in each Block. NYC volunteers act as an interface between the District NYK offices and the youth clubs/ mahila mandals. *In addition to be above, there are Advisory Committees at District and State levels, comprising of official and non-official members. The Advisory Committee at the District is headed by the District Collector or the Dy. Commissioner of the District and the Advisory Committee at the State level is headed by the State Minister in-charge of Youth Affairs.*

Programmes/ Activities of NYKS: The Programmes/ Activities of NYKS broadly fall in the following categories:

- Core Programmes: These are the programmes implemented by NYKS with its own budgetary resources (Block Grants released by the Department). These include Youth Club Development Programme, Training on Youth Leadership and Community Development, Theme-based Awareness and Education Programme, Promotion of Sports, Skill Up-gradation Training Programme, Promotion of Folk Art and Culture, Observance of Days of National and International importance, District Youth Convention and Yuva Kriti, Awards to Outstanding Youth Clubs, etc.
- Programmes organised with funding from NPYAD: These include National Integration Camps (NICs), Youth Leadership and Personality Development Programmes (YLPDPs), Life Skill Training Programmes and Adventure Camps.
- Programmes organised with funding from other Ministries/ Organisations: These include Tribal Youth Exchange Programmes, Adolescent Health and Development Project (AHDP), Projects on Awareness and Education for Prevention of Drug Abuse and Alcoholism in Punjab, etc.
- Programmes in coordination with various Departments/ Agencies: NYKS does not receive any funding, but organises/ participates in various programmes in coordination with various Development Departments/ Agencies. District NYKs and the NYC volunteers closely work with other Development

Departments/ Agencies and carry out the activities by actively involving the youth clubs/ mahila mandals. Some such activities are blood donation, plantation of saplings, formation of SHGs, organisation of health/ eye/ immunisation camps, enrolment of children in schools, campaign against social evils, etc.

(b) National Youth Corps (NYC) Scheme:

NYC Scheme was introduced w.e.f. 01.04.2010. NYC Scheme is a Scheme of the Department, but the same is implemented through NYKS. NYC Scheme is, therefore, already fully integrated with NYKS. Under the Scheme, youth in the age-group of 18-25 years are engaged as volunteers to serve upto maximum 2 years in nation-building activities. The minimum qualification for NYC volunteers is Class-X passed and they are paid honorarium @ Rs.2,500/- per month. The selection of NYC volunteers is done by a Selection Committee, headed by District Collector/ Deputy Commissioner of the concerned District. The volunteers are given 15-day Induction Training at the time of joining and 7-day Refresher Training in the second year of their tenure. At the end of the 2-year tenure of NYC volunteers, NYKS provides them skill development training so that they can get some employment after their term with NYKS ends. After 2 years, another set of NYC volunteers are recruited.

As mentioned earlier, normally 2 NYC volunteers are deployed in every Block. They act as an extended arm of NYKS in the Block and play an active role in implementation of various programmes and initiatives of NYKS through youth clubs/ mahila mandals.

(c) National Programme for Youth and Adolescent Development (NPYAD):

NPYAD Scheme was introduced w.e.f. 01.04.2008. Under this Scheme, financial assistance is provided to Government/ non-Government organisations for taking up youth and adolescent activities. The assistance under NPYAD is provided under 5 major components, namely,

- Youth Leadership and Personality Development Training
- Promotion of National Integration (National Integration Camps, Inter-State Youth Exchange Programmes, Youth Festivals, etc.)
- Promotion of Adventure; Tenzing Norgay National Adventure Awards
- Development and Empowerment of Adolescents (Life Skills Education, Counselling, Career Guidance, etc.)
- Technical and Resource Development (Research and Studies on Youth issues, Documentation, Seminars/ Workshops)

Some salient activities taken up under NYPAD, besides providing assistance to various organisations, are as follows:

- National Youth Festival and National Youth Awards: A National Youth Festival is organised during January every year to commemorate the birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda (12<sup>th</sup> January), which is also celebrated as National Youth Day. The Festival is organised in one of the States willing and equipped to host it. About 5,000 youth come from all the States/ UTs to participate in the Festival. During the Festival, National Youth Awards are conferred on young individuals and NGOs for excellent work done for nation-building/ community service.
- Tenzing Norgay National Adventure Award: The Tenzing Norgay National Adventure Award is the highest national recognition for outstanding achievements in the field of adventure on land, sea and air. Tenzing Norgay National Adventure Awards are conferred by the Hon'ble President of India, along with Arjuna Awards, in a function held at Rashtrapati Bhavan in the month of August every year.
- UNFPA-assisted Adolescent Health & Development Project: This Project is part of larger programme of funding of UNFPA (United Nations Population Fund) for the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare. The main objective of the Project is capacity building of adolescents. The Project is being implemented through NYKS.

- North East Youth Festival: During May, 2015, a North East Youth Festival was organised at Majuli in Jorhat District of Assam through NYKS. About 2,100 youth participated in the Festival.

(d) International Cooperation:

The Department endeavours to create an international perspective among youth in collaboration with other countries and international agencies/ organizations on various youth issues. The Department also collaborates with UN Agencies like United Nations Volunteers (UNV)/ United National Development Fund (UNDP) and the Commonwealth Youth Programme (CYP) on various youth related issues.

International Youth Exchange: Exchange of Youth Delegations with friendly countries is taken up for promoting exchange of ideas, values and culture amongst the youth of different countries and also to promote peace and understanding. It helps in developing international perspective among the youth. Currently, such programmes are going on with China, South Korea, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Vietnam, Bahrain, Japan, Maldives etc. Steps are being taken to initiate such programmes with more countries.

Collaboration with UN Agencies/ CYP: The Department is closely working with United Nations Volunteers (UNV)/ United National Development Programme (UNDP). Recently, a Project, namely, "Strengthening of NYKS and NSS", has been taken up jointly with UNDP/ UNV, at a total cost of US\$ 23,43,434. The Department also releases \$15,000 per annum as India's voluntary contribution for UNV Programme. The Department is also closely working with Commonwealth Youth Programme (CYP). India contributes to CYP annual pledge money of about Rs.1.15 crore. During July, 2015, India hosted the Asia Region Commonwealth Youth Ministers' Meeting at New Delhi.

(e) Youth Hostels:

Youth Hostels are built to promote youth travel and to enable the young people to experience the rich cultural heritage of the country. The construction of the Youth Hostels is a joint venture of the Central and State Governments. While the Central Government bears the cost of construction, the State Governments provide fully developed land free-of-cost, with water supply, electricity connection and approach roads. Youth Hostels provide good accommodation for the youth at reasonable rates. The Youth Hostels are looked after by Managers, appointed by the Central Government. For each Hostel, a Hostel Management Committee (HMC) is constituted to oversee the management related issues for an efficient functioning of the Hostel. The HMC is headed by a State Government functionary (Collector/ DC at the District level/ Secretary, Youth Affairs/ Sports in the State Capital).

So far, 83 Youth Hostels have been constructed across the country and one more Youth Hostel, at Roing (Arunachal Pradesh), is in advanced stage of completion.

(f) Assistance to Scouting and Guiding Organisations:

The Department provides assistance to the Scouting and Guiding Organisations, with a view to promote the Scouts and Guides movement in the country. This is an international movement aimed at building character, confidence, idealism and spirit of patriotism and service among young boys and girls. Scouting and Guiding also seeks to promote balanced physical and mental development among the boys and girls.

The financial assistance is provided to scouting and guiding organisations for various programmes such as organization of training camps, skill development programmes, holding of jamborees, etc. The activities, inter alia, include programmes related to adult literacy, environment conservation, community service, health awareness and promotion of hygiene and sanitation. Currently, assistance is being released to two organisations, namely, (i) Bharat Scouts and Guides and (ii)



Hindustan Scouts and Guides, for carrying on various scouting and guiding activities.

(g) National Discipline Scheme (NDS):

The Central Government had committed to reimburse liabilities incurred towards pay & allowances of NDS (National Discipline Scheme) Instructors, when the services of such instructors were transferred to the States. A budget provision of Rs.2 crores per annum (under Non-Plan) is being made for settlement of these liabilities.

(h) National Young Leaders Programme (NYLP):

NYLP is a new Scheme introduced during 2014-15. The Objective of the Scheme is to develop leadership qualities among the youth to enable them to realise their full potential and in the process, to contribute to the nation-building process. The Programme aims at motivating the youth to strive for excellence in their respective fields and to bring them to the forefront of the development process. It seeks to harness the immense youth energy for national-building. The Programme has 5 components, as outlined below:

- Neighbourhood Youth Parliament (NYP): The objective of Neighbourhood Youth Parliament is to provide a platform to the youth to articulate their views on various socio-economic development issues of concern to them. Youth clubs under NYKS are being enabled to function as 'neighbourhood youth parliament'. The implementing strategy followed is that the Presidents/ Secretaries of the Youth Clubs first participate in Capacity Building programmes in the form of Block Youth Parliaments and thereafter, they are required to organise 'neighbourhood youth parliament' programmes in respective villages. In these programmes, youth discuss/ debate issues of concern and formulate their recommendations, which are presented to local officials/ local bodies, for their consideration. The Programme is helping in developing leadership qualities among the youth and in actively involving them in the governance process.

- Youth for Development Programme (YFDP): The Programme aims at channelising the immense youth energy towards the nation-building, by involving youth in *Shramadaan* (voluntary labour). The Programme is being implemented through NYKS. Other organisations like NSS, NCC and Eco Clubs are also sought to be involved in the programme. Each youth volunteer is expected to put in 100 hours of Shramadaan every year.
- National Young Leaders Awards (NYLA): The youth are doing pioneering work in all the sectors. The Programme aims at motivating the youth to strive for excellence in their respective fields by recognising and rewarding the outstanding work done by them. It is proposed to confer 2 awards (one male and one female) in about 50 identified domains/ sectors.
- National Youth Advisory Council (NYAC): The Council is being set up to seek active involvement of the young leaders as well as other stakeholders in the decision-making process on the youth related issues. NYAC shall advise the Ministries/ Departments on youth related initiatives/ issues. The Council will give effective representation to young leaders from all States/ UTs in the governance process.
- National Youth Development Fund (NYDF): The objective of NYDF is to mobilise funds from non-budgetary resources also for youth development, in order to enable the Department to fill the gaps in the ongoing programmes as also take up innovative programmes for youth development to create young leaders.

## 2. National Service Scheme (NSS)

### Introduction:

National Service Scheme (NSS) was introduced in 1969 with the primary objective of developing the personality and character of the student youth through voluntary community service. 'Education through Service' is the purpose of the NSS. The ideological orientation of the NSS is inspired by the ideals of Mahatma Gandhi. Very appropriately, the motto of NSS is "NOT

ME, BUT YOU". An NSS volunteer places the 'community' before 'self'.

#### Objectives:

NSS aims at developing the following qualities/ competencies among the volunteers:

- To understand the community in which the NSS volunteers work and to understand themselves in relation to their community;
- To identify the needs and problems of the community and involve themselves in problem-solving exercise;
- To develop among themselves a sense of social and civic responsibility;
- To utilize their knowledge in finding practical solutions to individual and community problems;
- To gain skills in mobilizing community participation;
- To acquire leadership qualities and democratic values;
- To develop capacity to meet emergencies and natural disasters; and
- To practice national integration and social harmony.

NSS attempts to establish meaningful linkages between 'Campus and Community', 'College and Village' and 'Knowledge and Action'.

NSS was launched in 1969 in 37 Universities involving about 40,000 volunteers. As on 31.03.2015, NSS had about 36.42 lakh volunteers on its rolls spread over 351 Universities, 16,056 Colleges/ Technical Institutions and 12,004 Senior Secondary Schools. Since inception, over 4.60 crore students have benefited from NSS.

#### Nature of Activities:

The activities being undertaken under NSS can be broadly classified in two categories, as follows:

Core Activities: The activities under NSS continue to evolve in response to the needs of the community. An illustrative list of some of the activities undertaken under NSS is as follows:

- Education: adult literacy, preschool education, continuing education of school drop-outs, programmes on eradication of social evils, etc.
- Health, Family Welfare and Nutrition: immunisation, blood donation, health education, AIDS awareness, etc.
- Environment Conservation: plantation of trees and their preservation/ upkeep, cleaning and maintenance of streets, drains etc.,
- Social Service Programmes: Work in hospitals, institutions for disabled persons, orphanages, old-age homes, women welfare institutions, etc.
- Programmes for improving Status of Women: awareness generation regarding women's rights, imparting skill training to women, etc.
- Production-oriented Programmes: educating people about improved agricultural practices, guidance in animal resource development, etc.
- Disaster Relief and Rehabilitation: working with local authorities in rescue and relief operations.

Other Activities/ Programmes under NSS: In addition to the Core activities, various other activities are taken up under NSS. For instance,

- Participation in Republic Day Parade Camp. .
- Participation in Adventure Activities.
- Organisation of NSS Mega Camps and North East NSS Youth Festivals.
- Organisation of 'Suvichar' and 'Youth Convention' events during the National Youth Festival.
- Self-Defence Training for NSS Volunteers.
- Indira Gandhi NSS Awards.

### 3 Rajiv Gandhi National Institute of Youth Development (RGNIYD)

#### Introduction:

Rajiv Gandhi National Institute of Youth Development (RGNIYD), Sriperumbudur, Tamil Nadu, is an 'Institute of National Importance' under the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Government of India, by virtue of enactment of RGNIYD Act, 2012. The RGNIYD was set up in 1993 as a Society under the Societies Registration Act, 1975 and was conferred the status of 'Deemed to be University' under 'De-novo' category in 2008, by the Ministry of Human Resources Development.

RGNIYD functions as a vital resource centre with its multi-faceted functions of offering academic programmes at Post Graduate level encompassing various dimensions of youth development, engaging in seminal research in the vital areas of youth development and conducting Training/ Capacity Building Programmes in the area of youth development, besides the extension and outreach initiatives across the country.

The Institute functions as a think-tank of the Ministry and premier organization of youth related activities in the country. As the apex institute at the national level, it works in close cooperation with the NSS, NYKS and other youth organizations in the country. It has a wide network with various organizations working for the welfare and development of young people and also serves as a mentor.

The Vision of RGNIYD is to be a globally recognized and acclaimed centre of academic excellence in the field of youth development.

#### Nature of Activities:

Academic Programmes: RGNIYD currently offers 5 post-graduate programmes, namely, (i) M.Sc. in Counselling Psychology, (ii) M.A. in Social Innovation and Entrepreneurship, (iii) M. A. in Gender Studies, (iv) M.A. in Local Governance and Development, and (v) M.A. in Development Policy and Practice. The annual intake

capacity of these courses is 120 students. In addition, the Institute has started offering some additional degree/ diploma courses, namely, (i) B.Voc. (Apparel Manufacturing and Entrepreneurship), (ii) B.Voc. (Fashion Design and Retail), (iii) Post Graduate Diploma in Youth Development and (iv) Diploma in Community Mental Health.

Training/ Capacity Building: RGNIYD conducts a large number of training/ capacity building programmes (including training of trainers) catering to the need of youth across the country on various themes, viz., youth employability skills, social entrepreneurship, gender equity, life skills, disaster preparedness and risk reduction, entrepreneurship and livelihood issues, youth leadership and personality development, youth as ambassadors of peace, social harmony and national unity, women leadership and participation, capacity building of women managers in higher education, etc. A new Department of Tribal and North East Youth Development has been set up to focus on development of tribal youth and North East youth.

Research Programmes: RGNIYD offers interdisciplinary doctoral programmes on youth studies.

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