

5.9 YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS

REVIEW OF ANNUAL PLAN 1999-2000

Youth Affairs

Youth constitute about 34 per cent of the total population of India. They constitute a vibrant resource of our society. They have a vital role to play with regard to the fostering and strengthening of social consciousness against communalism and social evils. The immense resource of youth, if galvanised, can work as a major force of socio-economic change. Planning Commission has supported several programmes of the Department of Youth Affairs & Sports to channelise the energy of youth into constructive work and to inculcate in them noble and patriotic values and programmes of upgrading their skills.

2. During the year, the coverage under National Service Scheme was over 15.87 lakh student volunteers spread over 175 universities and 22 Senior Secondary Councils. From its inception, more than 1.52 crore students from universities, colleges and institutions of higher learning have benefited from NSS activities. Special camps on 'Youth for Health Society' were conducted and villages adopted for community development activities. NSS volunteers also contributed for rescue, relief, reconstruction and rehabilitation works in cyclone effected areas of Orissa. For restoration of normalcy, 103 special camps and three inter-state NSS camps were organised in worst effected slum areas of Bhubaneswar where 2550 volunteers participated. Besides NSS volunteers were involved in mobilising relief materials in distributing the same for affected people. The scheme was under revision to raise the funding of regular activities and special camping programme.

3. Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan organises three kinds of programmes viz. Regular Programmes, scheme for Youth Development & Empowerment and Innovative Projects for Youth Welfare. During the year, 861 youth club development programmes 2,847 vocational training programmes and 1891 programmes of Awareness Generation Campaigns were organised where 37,720, 1,31,177 and 3,24,432 youth respectively benefited/participated. Besides, 986 work camps, 1143 sports promotion programmes and 625 cultural programmes were organised involving 62,737, 2,79,421 and 2,59,604 youth respectively. NYKS was also instrumental in implementing programmes in coordination with other Central Ministries/UN agencies viz. UNDP-NYKS Youth Volunteers Against Poverty Award, Launching of International Year for the Culture of Peace and Training cum Workshop on Child Rights and World Life Watch etc.

4. During the year, 5725 National Service Volunteers were deployed with the State Governments, NYKS, NSS and Bharat Scouts and Guides to involve them in national building activities. Department of Youth Affairs & Sports provided financial assistance to 85 voluntary organisation (upto 31.1.2000) to involve youth in developmental activities.

Sports

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5. During 1999, SAF games were held, wherein India performed well, taking overall first place with 197 medals (102 gold medals, 58 silver and 37 bronze). Most of the International competitions were meant for qualifying tournaments for the coming Olympic Games at Sydney, Australia in September 2000.

6. Mrs. Jyotirmoyee Sikdar was conferred the Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award for the year 1998-99 for her outstanding performance in the field of Athletics.

7. Several schemes of the Department of Youth Affairs & Sports were under revision in consultation with the Planning Commission viz. scheme for Support for Supply and Installation of Synthetic Surfaces, prize money for Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award, 'Guidelines for assistance to National Sports Federations' so as to make them more effective and target specific.

8. Planning Commission has insisted on full utilisation of the funds specially under the scheme of Grants for Creation of Sports Infrastructure which is very important scheme for a development of sports infrastructure in the States.

9. Planning Commission continued its support to the Sports Authority of India (SAI), an apex body in the country for the development of sports. SAI continued to implement a number of schemes/programmes. Under the scheme of National Sports Talent Contest (NSTC), 26 new schools and 11 new akharas were adopted. During the year, there were 820 trainees under the ABSC scheme being trained at 16 Regional Regimental centres of the Army. Under SAI training centres, 2373 trainees (including non-resident trainees) were being trained at 41 SAI training centres. The number of girls trainees increased from 177 to 339. A significant increase in the trainees of Special Area Games scheme (SAG) was achieved from 311 in 1998-99 to 685 (484 boys and 201 girls) in 1999-2000. During the year, 115 trainees had been selected for training at various centres of excellence at SAI regional centres in different disciplines. For development of excellence for international competitions, SAI had formulated 25 long term development programmes i.e., and initiated action in 25 disciplines.

10. National Sports Development Fund has been set up with a contribution of Rs.2 crore from the Central Government Apart from this, a contribution of Rs.10.10 lakh was also received from different sources.

11. During the last two years, the Department of Youth Affairs & Sports had released more than 10 per cent of the total plan allocation under various schemes of the Department to the States of North East including Sikkim. During 1999-2000 also, the Department planned to spend at least 10 per cent of its allocations in this region. During the year, NYKS organised 97 youth club development programmes, 445 vocational training programmes, 140 Awareness Campaigns, 93 work camps, 157 Sports Promotion Programmes, 3 Adventure Programmes, 503 celebrations of days and weeks and 17 workshops and seminar in the North East States. The Department of Youth Affairs & Sports released Rs.36.57 lakh as central share under National Service Schemes to the States during the current year.

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12. An outlay of Rs.215 crore has been approved for the Department of Youth Affairs & Sports for the Annual Plan 2000-2001. The break-up of the outlay is as follows:

TABLE 5.9.1
Plan Outlay For Youth Affairs & Sports

(Rs. crore)	
Youth Affairs	85.04
Sports & Physical Education	129.66
Secretariat Services	0.30
Total	215.00

13. During 2000-2001, the thrust will be on harnessing Yuva Shakti, Development of Infrastructure and training of sports persons as per international standard to participate in the forthcoming international events.

14. The Department of Youth Affairs & Sports has formulated a scheme known as National Reconstruction Corps for benefit of the youth where energy needs to be channelised into constructive work and productive activities for nation building. This scheme will be brought into operation as a pilot scheme during 2000-2001. Its full scale of operation will be made once the pilot phase is found to be effective and meaningful.

15. The Department of Youth Affairs & Sports acts as a nodal agency for extending necessary support and dissemination of information to the targeted youth, and is expected to work out modalities of networking with other Ministries/Departments for effective and efficient utilisation of resources. Self-employment and entrepreneurship development among youth may be emphasised.

16. Community polytechnics and NGOs need to be evolved extensively in vocational and training programmes of NYKS in order to provide access to rural and marginalised youth. Assistance to voluntary organisations and self help groups working in the field of youth programmes may be encouraged. Voluntary organisations may be encouraged to work in the field of adolescent youth.

17. Concerted efforts must be undertaken to build adolescents a stable place in society so as to facilitate their healthy development.

18. The youth clubs have to be further strengthened. The question of augmenting resources of National Sports Development Fund with the support of private/corporate sector and the community has to be quickly addressed.

19. The private and public sector units may be encouraged to take up promotion and development of sports infrastructure.

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20. There is need to introduce a wider perspective of integrating `Sports' as a part of the educational system. Similarly, State Governments may also provide Additive Provision for `Sports' in their budgets so that improvement of sports facilities could be made available to youth.

21. Special attention will be given to the promotion of sports and games among the handicapped persons.

22. The North Eastern Region will continue to receive special attention for promotion of sports.