

## CHAPTER 14

### POINT 13 : NEW OPPORTUNITY FOR YOUTH

14.1 Youth represents hope and future of our country. They constitute about 30 per cent of the Population. Lack of proper employment opportunities, limited educational facilities, growing strength of divisive and separatist forces, breaking away of traditional Indian value system and lure of western culture are some of the major problems of youth today. It is, therefore, our responsibility to create new opportunities for our youth. The monitored items of this point are following:

**(i) Quantitatively monitored items:**

1. National Cadet Corps
2. National Service Volunteer Scheme
3. National Service Scheme
4. Nehru Yuva Kendra

**(ii) Qualitatively monitored items:**

5. New Youth Policy
6. New Sports Policy

14.2 **National Cadet Corps (NCC):-** NCC strives for developing character and strength among the youth and brings up dedicated and disciplined youth. NCC organises training camps and courses, and imparts attachment training with units of Army, Navy, Air Force and hospitals. During 2003- 2004, 5,58,005 cadets attended various camps against a target of 6,16,093 (90.57% of the target). These achievement covers NCC training, National Integration Camps, Republic Day Camp, Rock Climbing Camps, Trekking, Attachment with Military Hospital, Youth Exchange Programme, Mountaineering Expedition. In respect of only NCC training camps, against the targets of 5.84 lakh camps for the year the achievement was 5.29 lakh camps (90.58 % of the target).

14.3 **National Service Scheme (NSS):-** National Service Scheme (NSS) popularly known as NSS was launched in Gandhiji's Birth Centenary Year 1969 in 37 universities involving 40,000 students with primary focus on the development of personality of student volunteers through community work. The coverage of NSS has increased to more than 20.3 lakh volunteers upto during 2003-2004. The Volunteers have spread over 178 universities and 39 Senior Secondary Councils. Since its inception, more than 1.52 crore student from the Universities, Colleges and Institutions of higher learning have benefited from the NSS activity. For undertaking training, research and evaluation of the scheme and to motivate and equip the programme officers with requisite skills, 4 Training Orientation and Research Centres (TORCs) and 14 Training and Orientation Centres, (TOCS) have been set up. The Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports meets the entire expenditure on maintenance of these TORCs and TOCs. Each TORC/TOC organises 5 orientation training courses and 3 refresher courses of 10 and 5 days duration respectively for the NSS Programme Officers. In each training course, around 35 programme officers participate. Five focal points have been indentified for NSS work i.e. (i) National Integration and Social Harmony, (ii) Literacy, (iii) Gender Justice, (iv) Village Adoption and (v) Life Style Education. The NSS has two types of programmes, viz., "Regular activities and special camping programmes" undertaken by its volunteers. Under "Regular Activities", students are expected to work as volunteers for a continuous period of two years, rendering community service for minimum of 120 hours per annum. The activities include improvement of campuses, tree plantation, constructive work in adopted villages and slums, work in welfare institutions, blood donation, adult and non-formal education, health, nutrition, family welfare, AIDS awareness campaigns, etc. Under "Special Camping Programme" a camp of 10 days duration is conducted every year in the adopted areas on a specific theme like "Youth Against Famine", "Youth Against Disease", "Youth for Rural Reconstruction", "Youth for Social Harmony" and Youth for Swachhta etc. The theme for the current year is " *Nadiyon Mein Bahe Jaldhara Yeh Hai Sankalp Hamara*". The target of enrolment was of 20.81 lakhs volunteers in NSS during the year-2003-2004 and the achievement was 20.30 lakhs, which is 125% of target.

14.4 **National Service Volunteer Scheme (NSVS):-** National Service Volunteer Scheme (NSVS), launched from 1977-78, aims at providing opportunities to students, generally speaking to those who have completed their first degree, to involve themselves, on a voluntary basis, in national building activities for a specific period on a whole-time basis. The requirement regarding completion of the first degree course may be relaxed in the case of students who discontinued their education after completion of Intermediate/Higher Secondary Education to participat in mass movement of a better political and social order, in case of students belonging to Scheduled Castes/ Scheduled Tribes who have passed Intermediat/Higher Secondary Examination and in case of women students, where graduate women students are not available in particular district area. The National Service Volunteer is envisaged as a social engineer, one who is trying to discover his creative potential and to gain a deep and critical insight into the issues involved in the process of development, and who is willing to commit all his energy in the service of the community and the country. Against the target deployment of 5000 NSVS volunteers for the whole year, the achievement was enrolement of 4591 NSVS volunteers, which is 92% of target during the year 2003-04.

14.5 **Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan:-** Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan (NYKS) is an autonomous organisation under the Department of Youth Affairs and Sports. The largest grass root level organisation of its kind in the world, NYKS operates through more than 8 million non-student rural youth in the age group of 15-35 years. With a network of about 2.00 lakh village based youth clubs, NYKS adopts the strategy of awareness generation and mobilisation of rural youth for socio-economic development work in villages with emphasis on value, vision and voluntary action. NYKS has the following objectives: (i) to ensure the participation of rural youth in nation building actitivtes; (ii) to develop their values and skills so that they become productive and responsible citizens of a modern nation; (iii) to pursue self-sufficiency in resources; (iv) to utilise the NYKS network for the development and promotion of programmes in the priority sector of employment generation, literacy and family welfare especially for women and (v) to network with other Govt. Departments for implementation of their programmes. No target could be fixed for opening of new Kendras. However, under Swarna Jayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SJGSY), NYKS, is also involved in implementing this project in collaboration with the Ministry of Rural Development. The principal objective of the programme is to bring the Below Poverty Line (BPL) families above the poverty line in three years. At the initial stage and on pilot basis, the project is being implemented in 800 villages of the 8 districts of 4 states of the country. The total cost of the project is Rs. 28.39 crore. Through this project 8000 poor people belonging to the BPL families are expected to get the benefit.

14.6 **New National Youth Policy, 2003:-** The first National Youth Policy was formulated and tabled in Parliament in 1988. Consequent upon rapid socio-economic changes in the country and significant technological advancement, a need was felt to revise the National Youth Policy. Accordingly, a draft new *National Youth Policy (NYP)* was formulated in consultation with State Governments, Universities, Non-Government Organisations, Youth Wings of Political Parties and Central Ministries/Departments. The National Youth Policy, 2003 formulated by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports has been approved by the Cabinet on 10<sup>th</sup> December 2003. The Policy was laid on the table of both Houses of Parliament in December, 2003. The salient features of the new National Youth Policy, 2003 are as under:-

The age group for youth has been lowered to 13 to 35 years in the National Youth Policy, 2003. The Policy recognizes four thrust areas which are as follows:

- (i) Youth Empowerment;
- (ii) Gender Justice
- (iii) Inter Sectoral Approach; and
- (iv) Information and Research Network

14.6 (a) The Policy includes Key Sectors of youth development:-

(a) Education (b) Training and Employment (c) Health and Family Welfare (d) Preservation of Environment, Ecology and Wild life (e) Recreation and Sports (f) Arts and Culture (g) Science and Technology; and (h) Civics and good Citizenship. The Policy provides implementation mechanism through which various youth development programmes and activities would be undertaken with active involvement of the State Governments and Union Ministries and Departments. The National Commission for Youth set up by the Government would suggest measures for the implementation of the Plan of Action of the National Youth Policy.

14.7 **New National Sports Policy:-** The Government had already announced a new National Sports Policy, 2001 with its main thrusts on 'broad basin' of sports and "achieving excellence" in sports at the National and International levels. The main features of the policy are as under (i) Broad basing of sports and achievement of excellence, (ii) Up-gradation and development of infrastructure, (iii) Support to the National Sports Federations and other appropriate bodies, (iv) Strengthening of scientific and coaching support to sports, (v) Incentives to sports persons, (vi) Enhanced participation of women, scheduled tribes and rural youth, (vii) Involvement of the Corporate Sector in sports promotion, and (viii) promote sports mindedness among the public at large.