

[7 July, 2004]

RAJYA SABHA

Scheme to promote National Integration

79. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has a scheme to encourage youth to work and be familiar with National Integration;

(b) if so, the details of the scheme;

(c) the Government agencies which implement the scheme;

(d) whether a component of this scheme involves taking youths to different parts of the country to familiarize them with other areas, languages, etc; and

(e) the details of the scheme and how it is being implemented in Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI SUNIL DUTT): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Under the Scheme of Promotion of National Integration, the Government provides assistance for holding National Integration Camps, Inter-State Youth Exchange Programmes, Symposia and Seminars, Multi-cultural activities etc. to promote national integration and communal harmony among the youth from different parts of the country and from diverse religious and cultural backgrounds.

(c) These schemes are implemented by State Governments, Governmental agencies like National Service Scheme, Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan, educational institutions as well as Non-Governmental organisations.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. Inter-State Youth Exchange Programme is a programme under the scheme of Promotion of National Integration aims at facilitating the visit of youth living and working in one State to other States(s) for familiarization with environment, family life, social customs, languages, different culture etc. of the people living in different parts of the country.

The Scheme does not provide State-wise allocations. The viable proposals received from various States are considered and assistance is released. During the last three years, a total amount of Rs. 42.90 lakhs has been sanctioned to 25 organisations in Andhra Pradesh.