

conducted any such survey nor aware of any such survey conducted by any other Government agencies.

(b) The schemes under which projects run by NGOs for the welfare of STs and funded by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs have last been revised in 2008 and 2009. However, the revision of schemes has been done keeping in view the overall interest of Scheduled Tribes of the country.

(c) and (d) Do not arise, in view of (a) and (b) above.

#### **Participation of youth in political processes**

2869. PROF. M.V. RAJEEV GOWDA: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that previously the participation of youth in nation's progress was emphasized only in the economic and social sphere, and was silent on participation in political decision-making, however, the 2014 National Youth Policy emphasized on the requirement for a detailed analysis in order to create effective policies and programmes to enable youth participation in politics;

(b) if so, the details of tangible measures taken towards this objective; and

(c) whether there are any attractive and appropriate reward systems created to incentivise youth to engage in political processes to strengthen democracy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI SARBANANDA SONOWAL): (a) to (c) Effective participation of youth in politics and governance is one of the key priority areas of the National Youth Policy, 2014 (NYP-2014). The Policy states that it is important to ensure that youth participate in politics at all levels, from the grassroots to the national stage. The participation can be by way of the youth directly taking part in the political activities and also by active participation in the electoral process by casting their votes.

During recent years, there is considerable improvement in youth participation in politics. The Political Parties are facilitating participation of youth in politics. For instance, the number of parliamentarians in the age group of 25-30 years increased from 6 in the 15th Lok Sabha to 12 in the 16th Lok Sabha. The participation of youth in political process by way of casting their votes is also increasing. In fact, during the 2014 Lok Sabha elections, the voter turnout was as high as 66.4%, in increase of over 8.2% over the last Lok Sabha elections in 2009 and a large proportion of this increase was due to young voters coming out and casting their votes. In this regard, the SVEEP (Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation) Programme of Election Commission of India played a key role.