

7. NATIONAL YOUTH AWARD: (as detailed in annexure B of the National Program of Youth and Adolescent Development)

7.1 Objectives of the award:

- a. To motivate young persons (aged between 13 – 35 years) a challenge to achieve excellence in the field of national or social service.
- b. To encourage young people to develop a sense of responsibility to their community and thus to improve their own personal potential as good citizens.
- c. To give recognition to the outstanding work done by young persons for national development and./ or social service.
- d. To give recognition to the outstanding work done by voluntary organisations working with the youth for national development and / or social service.

7.2 Description of the award:

- a. The award shall be given for demonstrably excellent youth work in different fields of development activities and social service.
- b. The number of awards given each year would ordinarily not exceed 25. It may, however vary at the discretion of the sanctioning authority in deserving case.
- c. One youth award would be given to a voluntary organisation engaged in involvement of youth in various programmes of national development.
- d. Award to individuals will comprise a medal, a certificate, a shawl and Rs.40,000/. Award to voluntary youth organisation will comprise a medal, a certificate, a shawl and Rs. 2,00,000/- cash. The individuals will receive the prizes in their traditional attire.

7.3 Conditions of Eligibility:

7.3.1 For individuals:

- a. He / she should be between the ages of 13 – 35 years, i.e. He / she should have completed 13 years of age on the 1st of April of the financial year for which award is to be conferred and should be less than 35 years of age on the 31st of March of that financial year. However, preference will be given to those candidates who are in the age group of 18-30 years.
- b. He / she should have rendered service in the relevant field during the financial year for which award is to be given and should also be the one who is likely to continue to involve himself / herself in such activities for at least another two years after conferment of the award.
- c. The service rendered should be on a voluntary basis and should have made a remarkable impact in the community/society.
- d. The impact of the service rendered by him / her in person should be clearly identifiable, preferably quantitatively.
- e. He / she should not have been conferred such an award earlier. Such of the persons who are recommended for the award once and are not finally selected can, however, be recommended again.

- f. Persons employed with the Central / State Governments, PSUs/ Universities and colleges are not eligible for the award.
- g. Other consideration for guiding the selection of youth for the national award would include his / her reputation among the local community, his / her desire for improvement and genuine interest in the relevant field.

7.3.2 For Voluntary Organizations:

- a. Be registered under the Registration of Societies Act, 1860 (Act XXII of 1860) for the last three years or an corresponding State Act and have proper constitution or Articles of Association;
- b. Have a properly constituted managing body with its powers and duties clearly defined in its constitution;
- c. Be in a position to secure involvement on a voluntary basis. of knowledgeable persons for furtherance of its programmes,
- d. Not be run for the profit of any individual or a body of individuals,
- e. Not discriminate against any person or group of persons on the ground of sex, religion, caste or creed
- f. Have rendered service involving the Youth in a relevant field for at least three years and should also be one, which is likely to remain engaged in the relevant field for at least another two years after conferment of the award. Preference shall be given to those voluntary organisations, which are run by the youth and for the youth.
- g. Not have been conferred such an award earlier (such of the agencies as are recommended for the award once and are not finally selected, can, however, be recommended again)
- h. Have a good reputation among the local community, and
- i. The impact of the service rendered by it should be clearly identifiable, preferably quantitatively.

7.4 Submission of Proposals:

- a. The formats of application for National Youth Awards are given at Appendix-1 and Appendix-2 to these guidelines.
- b. Universities / Colleges, local developmental departments, voluntary agencies, private bodies, public sector undertakings, Nehru Yuva Kendra, National Service Scheme, etc. and the individual himself will submit their recommendation to the respective Secretary in the State Govt./Union Territory Administration by the 31st August every year.
- c. In addition to the recommendations received from the above organisations, the selection committee at different levels may, at their discretion, consider, on merits, individuals or youth organisations not recommended by anybody but considered suitable by the Selection Committee.
- d. Proposals to be considered should be accompanied by 3 passport size photographs of the candidates and also by adequate evidence in support of them.

7.5 Evaluation of Proposals: The fields of activities to be taken into consideration for the purpose of the National Youth Award would include social work in the rural areas and urban slums, promotion of national integration, adventure, cultural and recreational

activities, non formal and adult education programmes, work for improvement of the conditions of persons belonging to the weaker sections of the society, SC / ST and tribal areas, work connected with popularization of nationally accepted values, scouting and guiding and any other work considered important keeping in view the local needs and priorities. The State Governments would identify priority areas and call upon their youth to concentrate their efforts in these fields.

7.6 Selection of Awardees:

7.6.1 State Level: The applications received as explained in Para 7.4 (b) would be considered by a State level committee under the chairmanship of the Secretary of the Department dealing with youth affairs in the State. The composition of the State level committee will be decided by the State Government. However, the Committee will have two eminent personalities in the field of youth welfare, youth development, etc. and the Central government if desired will assist the State/UT Government to identify the eminent personalities in respective State/UTs. The State/UT level Selection Committee shall scrutinize the applications and recommend to the Central Government a panel of not more than 5 (five) names of young persons selected by State/UT level Committee. Similarly, each State Government/UT Administration will recommend not more than two voluntary agencies engaged in youth work. The recommendations of the State/UT Selection Committee shall normally be accepted by the State/UT Government. In case any variation is made, full justification for the same will have to be given. The State Government / Union Territory Administration will forward its recommendations to the Central Government by the 10th September every year.

7.6.2 National Level: At the National Level, a Central Selection Committee will scrutinize recommendations of the State Governments / UT administrations and make the final selection of youth awards. The Central Selection Committee may, at its discretion, consider on merits, individuals or youth organisations not recommended by a State Government / UT, for the award.

7.7 Presentation of the Award:

- a) Presentation of the award shall be made at a special ceremony during the National Youth Festival (12-16 January) on a convenient date and time to be announced every year.
- b) The awardees shall be invited to receive the award in persons.
- c) The awardees would be given TA / DA by the First Class / AC 2-tier return rail fare and arrangements for their stay would be made by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports. Lady and handicapped awardees are entitled to bring one escort. They will also be given TA/DA at par with the awardees.
- d) Awardees and escorts from North-Eastern Region including Sikkim and Jammu & Kashmir may be allowed airfare up to Guwahati/Kolkotta or Jammu/Delhi respectively on both-ways. Awardees and escorts from Andaman & Nicobar Islands and Lakshdweep are entitled for airfare both ways to the venue of the award.

7.8 **General:**

- a) The Government of India, Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports is competent to amend this code at its discretion without any prior notice whatsoever.
- b) Necessary funds for the awards and for all expenses incidental thereto as approved by the Government shall be provided by Government of India, Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports.
- c) In case of any dispute, the decision of the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports will be final and binding on all concerned.
- d) The secretariat for the award shall be provided by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports.