



**NATIONAL YOUTH  
PARLIAMENT  
COMPETITION  
SCHEME**

FOR

**UNIVERSITIES/COLLEGES**

**MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS  
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
2009**

**SCHEME OF  
NATIONAL YOUTH PARLIAMENT COMPETITION  
FOR  
UNIVERSITIES/COLLEGES**

**1. Objectives of the Youth Parliament Scheme**

With a view to strengthening the roots of democracy, inculcate healthy habits of discipline, tolerance of the views of others and to enable the student community to understand the working of our parliamentary institutions, the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs has introduced the Scheme of National Youth Parliament Competition in Universities/Colleges throughout the country. These competitions are conducted on an annual basis in each academic year.

**2. Eligibility for entry in the Competition**

All the Universities/Colleges who sponsor their nominees for attending the Orientation Course conducted by the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs prior to the start of the Competition would be eligible for participation. **The Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs may add any additional institution for participation in the competition.**

**3. Format and period of the Competition**

The Competition would normally be held in two stages depending on the number of participating institutions – the first stage at the group level where the institutions will be divided into various groups and secondly at the National Level between the winners of the various groups. The schedule of the Group and National Level Competitions will be finalized by the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs and the entire competition will be conducted within the same academic year. Each participating institution will prepare a single team of students who will participate as a team representing the institution. (For the purpose of organizing the Group Level Competitions the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs may nominate a co-ordinator from amongst the participating institutions to conduct and co-ordinate the competition in respect of that group and submit a report thereon to the Ministry).

#### **4. Duration of the Youth Parliament sitting**

The duration of the sitting of the 'Youth Parliament' should not exceed 55 minutes. Out of this, nearly 20 minutes may be devoted to Questions and the remaining time be utilized for discussion on Bills, Motions, Resolutions etc. as indicated in the literature on the subject which would be made available during the Orientation Course conducted by the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs prior to the commencement of each competition.

#### **5. Subjects for discussion in the 'Youth Parliament Sessions'**

The matters raised in the 'Youth Parliament Session' may relate to subject of welfare activities, defence of the country, social justice, social reforms, economic development, communal harmony, public health, student's discipline etc. Special emphasis may laid on issues relating to human rights. A list of suggested topics on which items may be presented is at **Annexure-A**.

No direct or indirect remarks may be made in the speeches which may cast aspersion on political parties or leaders/persons etc. and controversial topics based on actual events of recent occurrence should be avoided. It would be desirable to take up issues, based on hypothetical events for expounding upon the basic principles proposed to be debated. A list of 'Do's and Dont's' elucidating the various points to be kept in mind during the conduct of the 'Youth Parliament Session' is given at **Annexure-B**.

#### **6. Language**

The participants may speak in English/Hindi.

#### **7. Venue**

Each institution shall ordinarily hold their 'Youth Parliament Session' in its own premises with the held of available facilities. Needless expenditure should be avoided.

## **8. Evaluation of the Competition at the National Level**

At the National Level Competition the performances of each team would be evaluated by a panel of judges consisting of:

- (i) Member of Parliament/Ex-Member of Parliament/MLA/Ex-MLA/MLC/Ex-MLC;
- (ii) An Officer of the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs;  
and
- (iii) An academician of repute from a non-participating institution.

Based on this evaluation a merit list will be drawn to select the 'National Winner'. Individual performances will also be evaluated and prizes awarded to the selected team members on the basis of their meritorious performance.

The institutions participating at the National level would be selected on the basis of group-level competitions among the various institutions.

[The group-level competitions would be evaluated by a team consisting of:

- i) An MP/Ex-MP/MLA/Ex-MLA/MLC/Ex-MLC;
- ii) A coordinator to be appointed from among the institutions participating in that group (for evaluating the performance of the coordinator's own institution another nominee from amongst the other participating institutions of that group would sit on the evaluation panel instead of the coordinator.)
- iii) An academician of repute from a non-participating institution.]

## **9. Shields, Trophies, Prizes etc.**

At the National Level the following would be awarded:

### **(a) Running Shield**

A running shield will be awarded to the institution declared as first at the National level competition. If a particular institution wins the shield for three consecutive years, the shield will be retained permanently by that institution.

**(b) Trophies**

- i) The institution declared as first in the National level competition will be awarded another trophy.
- ii) One trophy each will be awarded to the other institutions participating in the National level by virtue of their having secured first position in their respective groups in the first stage (group-level) of the competition.  
[The trophies at (i) and (ii) above will be retained by the respective institutions].

**(c) Prizes and Certificates**

- i) Prizes and Certificates will be awarded to the students selected by the evaluating panel for their meritorious performances at the National level competition.
- ii) Certificates will be awarded to the teacher-in-charge of the team.  
(In addition, each student who is member of the team of the institution which has stood first at the National level will be awarded a certificate and a prize).
- iii) Prizes and certificates will be awarded to students of each of the participating institutions selected by the evaluating panel for their meritorious performance. At the Group Level a maximum of six students would be selected by the evaluating panel for the prizes and certificates. At the National Level a maximum of eight students would be selected by the evaluating panel for the prizes and certificates.

**10. Prize Distribution Function**

The Prize Distribution Function will be organized by the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs at a suitable date and venue after the competition is completed. At the function, the running shield, trophies to the institutions and prizes and certificates to the students at the National level will awarded.

The institution which stands first at the National level will be required to give a repeat performance of their 'Youth Parliament Session' before a selected audience at the Prize Distribution Function. The duration of this 'Youth Parliament Session' should not exceed 55 minutes.

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The Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs will fix a date and venue for the function. The prizes shall be distributed by a high dignitary. Invitations to VIPs and others for attending this function will be issued by the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs which shall bear the entire expenditure on this function, such as:-

Expenditure on:-

- (a) Rent of the Hall/Shamiana;
- (b) Lighting and seating arrangements;
- (c) Printing of Invitation cards;
- (d) Postage and stationery;
- (e) Refreshments; and
- (f) Other contingencies

The Prize Distribution Function would be attended by the Prize Winning students and the respective teacher-in-charge of the institutions which participated at the National level. The Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs will reimburse TA to the students restricted to ordinary second class/sleeper class railway fare. One escort teacher accompanying the students would be reimbursed TA restricted to the rail fare to his/her entitled class. The TA reimbursement for both the escort and the students would be restricted from their usual place of residence to Delhi and back.

#### **11. Financial Assistance**

- i) The Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs would reimburse expenses incurred by each Institution for organizing the Youth Parliament Session upto Rupees ten thousand for the first stage (Group-Level) competitions. Those institutions which qualify and participate in the second stage (National Level) of the competitions would be reimbursed an additional amount up to Rupees ten thousand. The reimbursement of expenditure in either case will be made on receipt of **statements of expenditure and the relevant vouchers.**
- ii) The Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs would also reimburse, within permissible limits, actual TA/DA expenses incurred in connection with journeys undertaken by the co-ordinators nominated for conducting/coordinating the group- level competitions in respect of

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each group during the first stage of the competition mentioned in paragraph 3 of this Scheme. The Group co-ordinators may submit their claims in the standard formats of TA/DA claim prescribed in their individual institutions and forward the same to the Ministry for reimbursement.

**ANNEXURE-A**

**CERTAIN SUGGESTED SUBJECTS FOR DISCUSSION IN ‘YOUTH PARLIAMENT COMPETITION’ FOR UNIVERSITIES/COLLEGES IN ADDITION TO THOSE MENTIONED IN THE RULES AND REGULATIONS OF THE ADOPTED SCHEME BASED ON THE SUGGESTIONS RECEIVED AND THE SUBJECTS DEBATED IN VARIOUS YOUTH PARLIAMENT SESSIONS AND DURING ORIENTATION COURSES.**

1. Should Parliament have unfettered powers of legislation.
2. Implementation of the Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme- how the allocations should be made/execution of works be monitored.
3. Human Rights with focus on right of life enshrined in Articles 21 and 22 of the Constitution.
4. Reservation for women in legislative bodies and in services.
5. Need to prescribe some minimum education and experience in public service for legislators.
6. National integration with focus on growth of ethnicity.
7. Matters regarding population control and policy with focus on legislation to provide incentives/disincentives.
8. Electoral Reforms with focus on corruption.
9. Right of legislators to decide their own perks. How else to decide?
10. Ways to provide a competent and stable Government in the event of a hung Parliament.
11. Privileges and Code of Conduct for the legislators.
12. Ways to check corruption and inefficiency in Public Sector.
13. Caretaker Government – Status and Functioning
14. Presidential Form of Government.
15. Proportional representation/list system.
16. People’s rights to good governance.
17. Representation of Sports-persons, Beauty Queens and Cine-stars in legislative bodies.

**DO'S AND DON'T FOR THE PARTICIPANTS IN THE YOUTH  
PARLIAMENT COMPETITIONS**

1. The institutions and students participating in the Youth Parliament Competitions should bear in mind that this scheme is a unique one. It is aimed to make these Youth Parliaments as the nurseries of future parliamentarians. If rightly implemented and its organizers are imbued with a sense of duty and dedication, it is likely to pay rich dividends in the shape of all round improvement in our national character and outlook. This aspect should always be kept in view while the institutions volunteer themselves for participation in these competitions.
2. It should not be forgotten that democracy offers political methods by which every citizen has the opportunity of participating through discussion and debates in an attempt to reach a voluntary agreement as to what should be done for the good of the community as a whole. It precludes the method of arriving at a decision on social policy in the streets as these are the ways of monarchy and not of democracy. Thus the scheme of Youth Parliament would help to start a movement amongst students to channelize their energy into healthy and constructive activities so that they may become useful citizens of tomorrow.
3. The subject to be selected for discussions in these Youth Parliaments should be as far as possible non-controversial. They should largely deal with the problems confronting the educational institutions and their day to day problems. The subject should relate to welfare activities, defence of the country, social justice and social reforms, economic development, communal harmony, discipline, health of the students, Human Rights etc.
4. Two most important parts of the list of business of a 'Youth Parliament' are the 'Questions' and the 'Debate' or 'Discussion'. During Question Hour, the judges are likely to be impressed by quality of questions asked and the quality of replies

given by the Ministers. During the Debate or Discussions, they particularly look for the standard of Debate and the quality of expression.

5. The participants should scrupulously avoid mention of the existing political parties and political personalities in the country. They should give imaginary or fictitious names to their parties and personalities. They should not give any impression that they have any leanings or bias for or against any political party or philosophy.
6. It would be in the interest of the participating institutions if they were to have their own “Permanent Youth Parliaments” which should serve as the “debating societies” for promoting debating talents in their students. Thus, at the time of selecting the names of participants they can draw upon the talent from these “Parliaments”.
7. The participants should show utmost respect to the Chair. They should abide by the decisions of the Chair and should have faith in his impartiality and judgement.
8. Every member while coming to the House for its sitting should bow to the Chair and similarly while leaving the Chamber bow to the Chair.
9. The members should not say or do anything on the floor of the House that is not warranted by rules of procedures or by the ruling or precedence or by the accepted and established customs and conventions of the House.
10. There should be no discussion on sensitive policy matters affecting the relations of our country with foreign friendly Governments or which will prove embarrassing for the country and its present day Government.
11. A member should never cross the floor while the House is sitting i.e. he should never pass between the Chair and any member who is speaking. Violation of this rule is regarded as a breach of Parliamentary etiquette.

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12. Members should not sit with their backs to the Chair. When a member wants to speak he should raise hands to attract the attention of the Chair. No member should speak unless he or she has 'Caught' the eye of the Speaker and has been permitted by the Chair by name or by a sign, to speak.
13. Every member should resume his seat as the Speaker rises to speak or calls out "order-order" and also when any other member is in possession of the floor. Two or more members should not keep standing at the same time.
14. No member should rise or leave the House when the Speaker is addressing the House. "The Speaker is always to be heard in silence".
15. No member should read out a written speech. However, a member may feel free to consult his notes whenever he loses track of his prepared speech or text.
16. Personal references by way of imputations or questions against the bonafides of any member should not be resorted to. A member must not address individual members of the House. He should always address the Chair and make all remarks to other members through the Chair.
17. Members should not distribute within the precincts of the House or inside the legislature questionnaires or pamphlets not connected with the business of the House.
18. The member during participation in the discussion can use either English or Hindi. However, if a member wants to speak in any other language, he is supposed to do so with the permission of the Speaker, but before speaking he is supposed to furnish in advance a copy of the translation of his speech.
19. In short all participants in these Youth Parliaments should so conduct themselves as to inspire respect for Parliament and Parliamentary Institutions.

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