

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1509
ANSWERED ON:01.08.2000
PROJECT FOR EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN
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Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Indian Space Research Organisation and Indira Gandhi National Open University have decided to launch a pilot project on the Women's Development and Empowerment;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether initiatives have been taken to launch a certificate programme for the trainees and provide satellite-based direct broadcasting-cum-interactive communication network system at the selected places; and
- (d) if so, the extent to which these projects are likely to be helpful for empowerment of women?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN)

- (a), (b) & (c): The Department of Women & Child Development has initiated a collaborative programme with Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) and Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) to start a certificate programme in Distance Education mode on Empowering women through self-help groups with a view to enhance the capacity of functionaries involved in formation of women's groups. The programme would support the Certificate Course, development of teaching material in print and audio visual forms and installation of dish antennae at various locations in the country.
- (d): The Certificate programme content has been designed to enhance the capacity of trainers and implementors' to understand gender related issues, the manner in which to mobilise women in groups, influence decision making and claim control and management over crucial material and non-material resources. This will help in the implementation of women related projects and programmes by improving the overall quality of women's lives, increasing their awareness, autonomy and control over resources which will be helpful for empowerment of women.