

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2288  
ANSWERED ON:03.12.2002  
INTRODUCTION OF DUAL DEGREE COURSES  
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**Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the UGC is proposing to introduce dual degree courses during the Tenth Five Year Plan as reported in The Hindu dated November 10, 2002;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the UGC has prepared any detailed plan in this regard;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the radical changes proposed in higher education to make students sound in core subject and skills in the vocational subjects?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (PROF. RITA VERMA)

(a) to (e): The X Five Year Plan proposals for higher education development, inter alia, propose for an open and flexible education approach where students can simultaneously pursue a degree and add-on utility programmes. Accordingly, students would be allowed to acquire an advanced diploma along with a degree or go for one more year of intensive professional subject learning and get two degrees at the end of the fourth year.

According to the information furnished by the University Grants Commission, it has initiated the process to encourage the universities to make their three years undergraduate course structure more flexible so as to allow students pursue both degree and utility oriented certificate/diploma/advanced diploma programme together. Selected universities have been requested to make necessary changes at their level so that the students can pursue skill-oriented vocational course either in the first or second or third year or in each of the three years.