

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:405
ANSWERED ON:25.07.2000
PRIVATISATION OF HIGHER EDUCATION
UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether privatization of higher education will leave a gap for the poorer students being unable to afford private education; and
- (b) if so, the steps proposed to be taken to ensure that higher education is accessible to all the sections ?

Answer

MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI)

(a) & (b) : There is no proposal of the Government to privatize higher education. The Government is fully committed to supporting higher education where outlays have been increased from Rs. 800 crores during the 8th Plan to Rs. 2500 crores in the 9th Plan Period. However, education is integrally linked with national development where partnership with the private sector would also need to be encouraged so as to optimize financial, physical and intellectual resources. This is all the more so in the context of the evolving educational scenario.

As part of its commitment to increase access to higher education in addition to the formal education system, the distance education system is further being utilized. Indira Gandhi national Open University (IGNOU) is taking active steps to reach out to educationally backward areas, so as to service the educational needs of those disadvantaged.