

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3920

ANSWERED ON:24.08.2004

I.C.S.S.R

Pallani Shamy Shri K.C .

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

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(a) whether the Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR) had set out to Microfilm and digitalise its priceless collection of research material as reported in 'Times of India' dated August 12, 2004;

(b) if so, the details and facts thereof; and

(c) the reasons therefor?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI)

(a), (b) & (c) As per the information furnished by Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR), National Social Science Documentation Centre (NASSDOC), a division of ICSSR has a plan to microfilm and digitalise its Ph.D. theses (5000 approx.) and Research Project Reports (3000 approx.) collection.

The first phase of microfilming of 500 Ph.D. theses has been completed. The second phase of the work will start in September 2004. ICSSR is presently negotiating with Vidyanidhi Project of the Mysore University for the digitalisation of its collection of Ph.D. theses.

The main purpose of microfilming and digitalisation of Ph.D. theses and Research Project Reports is

(i) preservation for posterity

(ii) wider and easy access to social science research community through Internet and

(iii) better storage as it amounts to saving of shelf space. Many of the old Ph.D. theses and project reports are in 'manually typed' form.

The pages have become brittle. Microfilming is considered to be the best option for preservation of these research materials.