

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1713

ANSWERED ON:11.03.2008

EXPANSION OF DISTANCE EDUCATION

Adhalrao Patil Shri Shivaji;Adsul Shri Anandrao Vithoba;Singh Shri Dushyant;Verma Shri Ravi Prakash

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes to expand the scope of distance education;
- (b) if so, whether there is a need to upgrade the technology to promote distance education at a minimal cost; (
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the Government has conducted any study regarding the impact of distance education;
- (e) if so, the contribution of distance education to the development of knowledge based human resources; and
- (f) the measures taken by the Government to make distance education more effective?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SMT. D. PURANDESWARI)

(a) to (c): Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) has launched a scheme, namely, Convergence of Open and Distance Learning (ODL) and Conventional Systems of Education in order to contribute towards the achievement of targets of 15% Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) in higher education. Under this scheme, the universities and colleges, which have been in existence for more than ten years, may collaborate with IGNOU to offer its Under Graduate and Post-Graduate programmes through mixed mode by using printed Self Learning Material (SLM) and face-to-face academic counseling enabled by technology.

(d) No, sir.

(e) Does not arise.

(f) Distance Education Council (DEC) provides academic, technical and financial support to Open and Distance Learning institutions to make distance education more effective.