

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3572  
ANSWERED ON:23.12.2008  
COURSES ON ASTROLOGY AND VEDIC RITUALS  
Gadhavi Shri Pushpdan Shambhudan

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

- (a) whether the UGC has directed the Universities to start courses on Astrology and Vedic rituals and allocated funds for this purpose;
- (b) if so, the details in this regard;
- (c) whether such courses have already been started in the Universities;
- (d) if so, the details of Universities where these courses have been started; and
- (e) if not, the time by which they are likely to be started ?

**Answer**

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

(a) to (e): According to the information furnished by the University Grants Commission (UGC), a scheme for setting up of a Department of Jyotir Vigyan in universities was started in the year 2000-01, during the IX Plan. 20 universities were selected under the scheme and a grant of Rupees 15.00. lakh was given to each of them towards non-recurring expenditure. Eight universities have refunded the grants, one was permitted to re-appropriate the grant for computerization of various administrations, and two universities have not implemented the scheme so far. The scheme was not continued in and after the X Plan .