

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:320  
ANSWERED ON:24.08.2011  
ONLINE VIRTUAL EDUCATION  
Tharoor Shri Shashi

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

- (a) whether the Government has taken any steps to encourage online virtual education in the country, in order to allow students in remote parts access to quality teaching;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) has also taken any initiative in the matter; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT(SHRI KAPIL SIBAL)

(a) to (d): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) to (d) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 320 ASKED BY DR. SHASHI THAROOR, HON'BLE MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT FOR 24.08.2011 REGARDING ONLINE VIRTUAL EDUCATION

(a) & (b): Yes, Sir. The Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Human Resource Development is administering a Centrally Sponsored Plan Scheme, namely, National Mission on Education through Information and Communication Technology. This scheme has been envisaged as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme to leverage the potential of ICT, in providing high quality personalized and interactive knowledge modules over the internet/intranet for all the learners in Higher Education Institutions in anytime any where mode. The Mission has two major components viz. (a) content generation and (b) connectivity along with provision for access devices for institutions and learners. It seeks to bridge the digital divide, i.e. the gap in the skills to use computing devices for the purpose of teaching and learning among urban and rural teachers/learners in Higher Education domain and empower those, who have hitherto remained untouched by the digital revolution and have not been able to join the mainstream of the knowledge economy. The Mission has a focus on appropriate pedagogy for e- learning, providing facility of performing experiments through virtual laboratories, on-line testing and certification, on-line availability of teachers to guide and mentor learners, training and empowerment of teachers to effectively use the new method of teaching learning etc.

(c): Yes, Sir. Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) is encouraging online virtual education in the country offering quality teaching to students in remote parts of the country and also outside the country. Ten (10) Academic Programmes (courses) leading to certification at different levels (diploma, degree and post-graduation) are on offer for the last 4-years. In addition to this, twenty seven (27) major online programmes have been launched by the University using this platform. At present, there are 3315 registered students for online programme. The platform provides a complete Virtual Learning Environment (VLE) covering all the activities, from registration to certification.

(d): The details are given in Appendix.

APPENDIX REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (d) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 320 ASKED BY DR. SHASHI THAROOR, HON'BLE MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT FOR 24.08.2011 REGARDING ONLINE VIRTUAL EDUCATION

Online Academic Programmes

- 1) Post Graduate Diploma in Environmental Law(PGDENLWOL)
  - 2) Certificate in Anti Human Trafficking(CAHTOL)
  - 3) M.A. in Applied Integral Studies (MAAIS)
  - 4) Post Graduate Diploma in Indian Studies: Vedic Studies in the Light of Sri Aurobindo(PGDVSSA)
  - 5) Post Graduate Certificate: The Upanishads in the Light of Sri Aurobindo (PGCULSA)
  - 6) Post Graduate Certificate: An Intro to the Vedas in the light of Sri Aurobindo (PGCM)
  - 7) Post Graduate Certificate in Integral Education: From Reflection to Action(PGCIERA)
  - 8) Post Graduate Certificate in Studies of the Rig Veda: Hymns to the Rising Sun,Surya-Savitri (PGCSRVS)
  - 9) Post Graduate Certificate in the Study of the Bhagawad Gita in the Light of Sri Aurobindo(PGCBGSA)
  - 10) Certificate Programme in Chess as Mind Booster
- Online Programmes on the Virtual Classroom Platform

1. Post Graduate Diploma in Acupuncture (PGDACP)
2. Appreciation Programme on Sustainability Science (APSS)
3. Leadership Programme on Nutrition Security and Sustainable Development (LPNSSD)
4. Appreciation Programme on Sustainable Management of Wetlands (APSMW)
5. Master in Intellectual Property of Law (MIPL)
6. PG Diploma in Legal Process Outsourcing (PGDLPO)
7. PG Certificate in Cyber Law (PGCCL)
8. PG Diploma in Food Safety and Quality Management  
(PGDFSQM)
9. PG Certificate in Agriculture Policy (PGCAP)
10. Certificate Program in Spanish Language (CPSL)
11. Academic Counsellors` Training online (act online)
12. MA in Distance Education (MADE)
13. PG Diploma in E-learning (PGDEL)
14. Master in Library and Information Science (MLIS)
15. PG Diploma in Participatory Management of Displacement, Resettlement and Rehabilitation (PGDMRR)
16. PG Certificate in Medical Informatics (PGCMINF)
17. PG Certificate in Health Insurance (PGCHINS)
18. PG Certificate in Laws Applicable to Hospital of Medical Practice (PGCML)
19. PG Certificate in Quality Management in Health Care (PGCQMHC)
20. Diploma in Business Process Outsourcing - Finance & Accounting
21. PG Diploma in Sustainability Science (PGDSS)
22. Appreciation Programme on Sustainable Management of Ganga A Scientific Approach (APSMG)
23. Leadership Programme on Himalayan Ecosystems (LPHECO)
24. Master Degree Programme in Political Science(MPS)
25. Doctor of Philosophy in Library & Information Science (PhD in Library & Information Sc)
26. PG Diploma Programme in Bio-Ethics (ICMR Project)
27. IGNOU-NHRC Human Rights Training Programme for Police Personnel