

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1419
ANSWERED ON:30.11.2011
AGREEMENT ON QUALITY EDUCATION
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Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Indira Gandhi National Open University and United Nations Organisation for Education, Science and Culture have signed an agreement for quality education and training in 2010;
- (b) if so, the details in this regard; and
- (c) the extent to which students in the country have been benefited by the said agreement?

Answer

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

(a) to (c) As per the information provided by Indira Gandhi National Open University (Indira Gandhi National Open University), an Agreement for Co-operation (AOC) has been signed between Indira Gandhi National Open University and United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) on 11.1.2010 with the objective to promote an integrated system of research, training, demonstration, knowledge, management and documentation activities in the field of Journalism & Media Studies, Science Education, Teacher Training and ICT-enhanced distance learning including providing scientific- technological and social-cultural support to pilot projects. The agreement has come into effect from the date of its signing i.e. 11.1.2010. The activities under this agreement are expected to benefit students & the academic community not only in the country but also in the cluster countries such as Bangladesh, Maldives, Nepal and Sri Lanka. Initiatives were also taken to promote programmes on science studies under Raman Chair in collaboration with UNESCO and accordingly IGNOU - UNESCO Science Olympiad was organized in 2010 & 2011 for 11th Grade Students of India and SAARC Countries in which approximately 4400 students participated in each year. The School of Journalism of Indira Gandhi National Open University has further taken up a Mapping Project for the South Asian Journalism Schools to identifying centers of Excellence in SAARC Countries.