

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1576
ANSWERED ON:30.11.2011
FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO OPEN UNIVERSITIES
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Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Vice-Chancellors of Open Universities in the country have expressed concern over the State Governments and the University Grants Commission's (UGC) apathy towards them;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the State Government and UGC do not provide concrete financial assistance to open universities;
- (d) if so, the reasons therefore;
- (e) whether the target of the Government in Eleventh Five Year Plan for raising the enrolment rate from the existing 15% to 20% in higher education will not be hampered due to this indifferent attitude of the State Governments and UGC; and
- (f) if so, the response of the Government on the non-availability of financial assistance to the Open Universities in the country?

Answer

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

(a) & (b) As per the information received from the Distance Education Council (DEC), which is responsible for promotion of Open and Distance Education System, its coordinated development and determination of its standards in the country, no such representation has been received by it.

(c) & (d) As per the information furnished by University Grants Commission (UGC), it is funding only the Conventional Mode Universities in the country. The State Open Universities (SOUs) have been established under the State Legislation and are supported by the respective State Governments. However, no information regarding receipt of funds by Open Universities from the State Governments is maintained centrally.

(e) & (f) DEC also supports the SOUs including dual mode government universities by providing Development Assistance to construct or renovate essential university building (SOUs only), Development of Course material, Students Support Service, Library and Technology Support, Staff Training Development and Research & Development etc. for promotion of Open and Distance Education system. Open and Distance learning system currently contributes about 20 % to the GER.