

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1609
ANSWERED ON:30.11.2011
VIRTUAL UNIVERSITIES
Panda Shri Baijayant;Pradhan Shri Nityananda

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

- (a) whether it is proposed to set up virtual universities for technical education in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the added advantages to the students under this system;
- (c) how far will this help off-campus students to avail of facilities offered on-campus students;
- (d) the details of programmes to be offered to the students under this system;
- (e) whether this system be better, more effective and useful to the students who are not on the roles of other regular colleges or universities; and
- (f) if so, the details in this regard and if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

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

(a) to (f) At present, there is no concrete proposal to set up virtual universities for technical education in the country. However, under National Mission on Education through Information and Communication Technology (NMEICT) one of the components is Development of Certification & Testing Modules for Virtual Technological Universities (VTUs) & creation of VTU, multi media research and international Programmes. The concept envisages imparting of high quality technical education to students through effective use of ICT and e- learning so as to supplement the capacities of existing institutions and provide much wider coverage of high quality technical education to meritorious students. The concept also envisages effective use of virtual laboratories and practical experience in laboratories of renowned institutions during summer / winter vacation so as to remove any disadvantage such students could have because of off campus ICT based learning. At a conceptual level it could empower students in other institutions to compete with students in renowned colleges or universities in so far as acquisition of knowledge is concerned. The concept also envisages learning curve in this direction by first creating Postgraduate level courses in Engineering and then expanding it to Undergraduate level courses. A pilot study for this purpose had been assigned to IIT Kanpur. It is too early to judge the effectiveness of the concept at present.