

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1377
ANSWERED ON:21.03.2012
KNOW INDIA PROGRAMME
Ponnam Shri Prabhakar

Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the students of eleven countries visited Indira Gandhi National Open Universities (IGNOU) under the 'Know India Programme';
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the steps being taken to attract more number of students to make this programme successful especially in Andhra Pradesh; and
- (c) the fund allocated and spent so far for this programme?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI)

(a) & (b) Yes Madam. During the 19th Know India Programme (KIP) held from 21.12.2011 to 10.01.2012, thirty seven overseas youths of Indian origin from 10 countries including Mauritius, Malaysia, Myanmar, New Zealand, South Africa, Suriname, Trinidad & Tobago, Kenya, Israel and Australia visited IGNOU, Delhi on 30.12.2011 and met the Vice Chancellor. There was a detailed presentation by the Vice Chancellor on different dimensions of distance education and the diverse activities and overseas presence of IGNOU followed by an interactive session with KIP participants. Know India Programme is organized with the objective of familiarizing Indian Diaspora youth with the developments made by the country and bringing them close to the land of their ancestors. The participants are also taken to a partner state in India to see different dimensions of Indian life and the progress made by the country in various fields e.g. economic, industrial, education, science and technology, communication and information technology and culture. Since inception, 19 states have served as partner states for KIP and the state of Andhra Pradesh have already been covered twice as a partner state.

Know India Programme is a highly successful programme run by the Ministry and it attracts a large number of overseas youths to participate in it. Wide publicity is given to this programme through Indian Missions/Posts abroad as well as through the local media to enable overseas Indian youths to apply for the same. Nearly 600 overseas youths have participated in this programme so far.

(c) The fund allocation for KIP during the last three years is stated below:

2009-10 - Rs. 125 lakh

2010-11 - Rs. 144 lakh

2011-12 - Rs. 160 lakh

Nearly Rs. 3,26,78,370/- (Rupees Three Crore Twenty Six Lakh Seventy Eight Thousand Three Hundred and Seventy) has been spent between 2009 and 2012 (up to January, 2012).