

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4257
ANSWERED ON:02.05.2012
STANDARD OF EDUCATION THROUGH DISTANCE EDUCATION
Singh Shri Yashvir

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

- (a) whether the Government has constituted any committee to examine and suggest measures to regulate the standard of education being imparted through distance mode;
- (b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the terms of reference of the said committee;
- (c) whether the said committee has submitted its report;
- (d) if so, the details of the recommendations made therein; and
- (e) the details of the action taken by the Government on such recommendations?

Answer

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

(a) Yes Sir.

(b) The Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) vide its office Memorandum No. F.6-20/2010-DL dated 5th August, 2010 constituted a Committee consisting of the following members:

(i) Prof. N.R. Madhava Menon - Chairman

(ii) Chairman/Secretary of the UGC - Member

(iii) Chairman, AICTE - Member

(iv) Chairman, DEC - Member

(v) Shri Lalit Bhasin, Sr. Advocate - Member

(vi) Shri Ravindra Kumar Srivastava, Sr. Advocate - Member

(vii) Shri Anant Kumar Singh, Joint Secretary, - Convener

Ministry of Human Resource Development

The Terms of Reference of the Committee are as under:

To Harmonize the legal position in respect of distance education programmes in various disciplines, as they concern the UGC Act, AICTE Act and IGNOU Act

To recommend framework for approval of Distance Education Courses/institutions within functional jurisdiction of UGC, AICTE and DEC in dealing with the subject matters of distance education

To recommend outcome benchmarks for distance education systems which will facilitate equivalence with conventional modes

To recommend guidelines for processing of the approval of technical programmes through distance and mixed modes

To suggest ways towards enhanced contribution of Distance Education to reach the targeted Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) of 30% by 2020

(c) Yes Sir.

(d) The Madhava Menon Committee Report has inter alia recommended that every conventional university and institution, including technical and professional ones, should be encouraged to switch over to a dual mode of imparting education by offering Open and Distance Learning (ODL) programmes; creation of a new Regulatory body namely, Distance Education Council of India (DECI) through an Act of Parliament; amendment to the Indira Gandhi National Open University(IGNOU) Act to divest it of the responsibilities of regulating the ODL system; issue of policy direction to UGC for assuming the responsibility of maintaining standards in ODL system as an interim measure; institutions to restrict study centres within their statutory territorial limits; review of UGC's decision not to permit Ph.D through distance mode and not to allow new Deemed Universities to offer distance education programmes; ban on Deemed Universities operating through affiliated colleges / franchisee centres; use of ICT; equivalence of degrees awarded through ODL system and regular system both for educational and employment purposes.

(e) Government while accepting the Report in principle has decided against the setting up of a new statutory DECI in view of Higher Education & Research Bill already introduced in Parliament. Accordingly, all concerned have been asked to take necessary action.