

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4366
ANSWERED ON:02.05.2012
BAREFOOT COLLEGE FOR RURAL WOMEN
Panda Shri Baijayant;Pradhan Shri Nityananda

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

- (a) the details of the barefoot college for rural women that has been organised in Rajasthan State;
- (b) the manner in which it has helped the rural women to supplement income of their families;
- (c) whether this system has been replicated by certain Indian State Governments and foreign countries;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether the above colleges are funded by the Union Government and if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) the action plan to popularise this system in the country to strengthen the hands of women in despair?

Answer

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

(a) to (f): It has been reported by the Government of Rajasthan that no such college in the State is being administered by the Department of Higher Education. However as reported in some sections of the media, Barefoot college, also known as Social Work and Research Centre, is a Non-Government Organisation (NGO), operating in Tilonia village of Rajasthan. The Central Government is not funding this college nor is aware of a similar system in any other part of the country. The college is not awarding any degree and is not a recognized Higher Educational Institution (HEI). The Central Government and some State Government are administering "Community Colleges", which have similar objects of empowering local communities by imparting relevant skills to them.