

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1624
ANSWERED ON:22.08.2012
DISTANCE LEARNING
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Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is considering technological measures to increase the penetration of distance learning;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government is also considering developing specialized course content for dissemination through e-learning route; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

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

(a) to (d): Distance Education Council (DEC), Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) and National Mission on Education through Information and Communication Technology (NMEICT) are undertaking technological measures to increase penetration of distance learning in the country.

Government of India through DEC provides academic and financial support to Open & Distance Learning (ODL) institutions (except IGNOU) for developing infrastructure, Self-Learning Material (SLM) in print, audio, video, CD and multimedia materials, student support services, networking, online resources, technology-enabled learning, etc. It also provides financial support to IGNOU directly for the growth of Distance Education.

IGNOU provides multi-channel, multiple-media teaching-learning packages in the form of self instructional print and audio/video materials, radio and television broadcast, video conferencing, interactive video counselling, interactive multi-media CD-ROM and internet based learning. It has embarked on developing on-line learning environment for distance learners viz., e-GyanKosh - a national digital repository of learning resources (www.egyankosh.ac.in) wherein courses and video lectures are available online, e-learning platform for online programmes (www.ignou.ac.in), Flexi-Learn - an open-course portal (www.ignouflexilearn.ac.in) and web-casting of educational channels - Gyandarshan-1, Gyandarshan-2 and Gyanvani (Delhi) (www.ignouonline.ac.in/Broadcast) etc.

National Project on Technology Enhanced Learning (NPTEL), a joint initiative of Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) and Indian Institute of Science (IISc) and funded by NMEICT aims to enhance the quality of engineering education in the country by providing free on-line courseware as well as e-learning through Online Web and Video Courses in engineering, science and humanities' streams. NMEICT is also engaged in providing connectivity to educational institutions, e-content generation for UG and PG Courses through Consortium of Educational Communication (CEC) and University Grants Commission (UGC), respectively and in development of low-cost access device.