

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2784
ANSWERED ON:29.08.2012
TECHNOLOGY FOR IMPROVEMENT OF EDUCATION SECTOR
Hussain Shri Syed Shahnawaz

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

- (a) whether the Government is using any technology for the improvement of education sector;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has taken any steps in regard to the constitution of an independent authority for recognition of higher education;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI E. AHAMED)

(a) & (b): Yes, Sir. The Government has launched the National Mission of Education through Information and Communication Technology (NMEICT) as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) to leverage the potential of Information Communication Technology (ICT) in teaching and learning process for the benefit of all learners in Higher Educational Institutions. The NMEICT provide connectivity along with provision for access devices to the institutions and learners as well as content generation. About 404 universities and 18,382 colleges have been provided connectivity under NMEICT.

The Government has also launched the low cost access-cum-computing device (LCAD) "Aakash" on 5.10.2011. Under the National Programme on Technology Enhanced Learning (NPTEL), web and video courses for both Engineering and Humanities subjects have been developed. Over 250 such courses have been completed and made available in the NPTEL Phase-I. National Library and Information Service of Infrastructure for Scholarly content (N-LIST) provides access to more than 3100 e-journals and 80,000 e-books to degree colleges and universities.

(c) to (e): The Government has introduced the Higher Education and Research Bill in Parliament on 28th December, 2011. The Bill seeks to establish an over-arching body in Higher Education to maintain and coordinate the standards of higher education in the country.