

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1891

ANSWERED ON:05.12.2012

REGULATORY FRAMEWORK FOR DISTANCE LEARNING EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS .

Joshi Shri Pralhad Venkatesh

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes to introduce any regulatory framework for distance learning educational institutions in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has received any complaint of malpractices by such institutions;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government in this regard;
- (e) whether the Government has any database on distance learning universities operating in the country and the students on their rolls;
- (f) if so, whether any Committee has been set up for this purpose; and
- (g) if so, the details thereof?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (Dr. SHASHI THAROOR)

(a) & (b): Yes, Sir. The Higher Education and Research Bill 2011, already introduced in the Parliament, envisages the creation of overarching regulatory body for higher education, subsuming the existing regulatory bodies in the field of higher education, including distance education, to facilitate, inter alia, autonomy of universities, assume accountability with transparent, participative governance, and objective evaluation, switch to verification and authentication mechanism instead of inspection-approval processes.

(c) & (d): As per information provided by DEC, it has received complaints about some universities viz. Periyar University (T.N), Manonmanian Sundernar University (T.N), EILM University (Sikkim), IASE Deemed University (Rajasthan), MG University (Meghalaya), Vinayaka Missions University (T.N), Jaipur National University (Rajasthan), The Global Open University (Nagaland), Punjab Technical University (Punjab), Karnataka State Open University (Karnataka), etc. regarding opening of study centres beyond their territorial jurisdiction, offering of BE / B.Tech programmes and franchising study centres, etc. DEC has examined the complaints and apprised the institutions / authorities concerned for taking corrective measures. DEC regularly informs distance learning institutions to follow the norms of DEC and other apex bodies on territorial jurisdiction, to refrain from franchising study centres as well as from offering B.E / B.Tech programmes through the distance mode.

(e): As per DEC, it maintains a database but often faces difficulty in updating the same due to the indifference of institutions in furnishing full data in time.

(f): No, Sir.

(g): In view of the reply at (f) above, the question does not arise.