

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3032

ANSWERED ON:12.12.2012

META UNIVERSITIES

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

- (a) whether the Government is working on the Meta Universities in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government so far in this regard;
- (c) whether there will be a joint consensus of all those universities while awarding of degrees or the students will get separate degrees;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether the Government has issued any directions to the State Universities including Kolkata and Hyderabad to launch this kind of model;
- (f) if so, the details thereof and the response of these Universities; and
- (g) the time by which Meta Universities are likely to be established?

Answer

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

(a) & (b): Yes Sir. The main purpose of the Meta University is to share learning resources by different Universities by using the latest technologies available in order to enable the students to benefit from the learning resources available in different institutions. The University Grants Commission (UGC) as the apex regulatory body for universities, has decided to come out with detailed guidelines on Meta Universities.

(c) & (d): Yes Sir. The participating institutions/universities share their learning resources to provide students with a more holistic learning experience. Hence such programmes are joint degree programmes, as clarified by UGC to Delhi University.

(e) & (f): Yes, Sir. The Central Government has written letters to the University of Calcutta, Jadavpur University Calcutta, the Indian Institute of Management, Calcutta, the University of Hyderabad, the Indian School of Business, Hyderabad, the English and Foreign Languages University, Hyderabad and the Indian Institute of Technology Hyderabad. The University of Calcutta, the English and Foreign Languages University, Hyderabad and the Indian Institute of Management, Calcutta have expressed their interest in Meta Universities.

(g): Higher Educational Institutions being fully autonomous entities, it is now left to them to collaborate and identify the courses/programmes to be offered in the Meta Universities. One such Meta University has already been started in Delhi.