

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3042
ANSWERED ON:12.12.2012
SHIFTING OF DISTANCE EDUCATION COUNCIL OF IGNOU
Bishnoi Shri Kuldeep

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

- (a) whether the Government has decided to shift the Distance Education Council of Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) to University Grants Commission;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor along with the likely impact of this decision on the students studying under the Distance Learning Programme; and
- (c) the remedial steps taken by the Government in the matter?

Answer

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

(a): Yes, Sir.

(b): The Distance Education Council (DEC), responsible for regulating all the universities / institutions offering Open & Distance Learning (ODL) programmes, is a statutory body of a university i.e. the Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU). A university regulating other universities creates a conflict of interest. Keeping this and other related issues in view, a Committee was constituted under the chairmanship of Prof. N R Madhava Menon to suggest measures to regulate the standards of education imparted through the distance mode. The Committee recommended, inter alia, placing DEC under the control of the University Grants Commission (UGC) which is the statutory regulator of the university system as a whole. The duties performed by the DEC currently under the IGNOU would continue to be performed by it, but under the control of the UGC. Therefore, there would not be any adverse impact on the students studying under the Distance Learning Programmes.

(c): Issue does not arise in view of reply at (b) above.