

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1543  
ANSWERED ON:06.03.2013  
REVIEW OF DISTANCE EDUCATION  
Dharmshi Shri Babar Gajanan

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

- (a) whether the Government has constituted any committee to review the distance education in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the said committee has recommended that being a regulatory body, the Distance Education Council must be dissociated from Indira Gandhi National Open University in the country; and
- (d) if so, the reaction of the Union Government thereon?

**Answer**

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

(a): Yes, Madam.

(b): The Committee Report has inter alia recommended that every conventional university and institution, including technical and professional ones, should be encouraged to switch over to a dual mode of imparting education by offering Open and Distance Learning (ODL) programmes. The Report also recommends the creation of a new Regulatory body, namely the Distance Education Council of India (DECI), through an Act of Parliament; amendment to the Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) Act to divest it of the responsibilities of regulating the ODL system; issue of policy direction to the UGC for assuming the responsibility of maintaining standards in the ODL system as an interim measure; institutions to restrict study centres within their statutory territorial limits; review of the UGC's decision not to permit Ph.D through distance mode and not to allow new Deemed Universities to offer distance education programmes; ban on Deemed Universities operating through affiliated colleges / franchisee centres; use of ICT; equivalence of degrees awarded through the ODL system and regular system both for educational and employment purposes.

(c): Yes, Madam.

(d): The Government has accepted this recommendation.