

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1557
ANSWERED ON:14.08.2013
INDIAN SIGN LANGUAGE RESEARCH AND TRAINING CENTRE
Thamaraiselvan Shri R.

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

- (a) whether the Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) has decided to shut down the Indian Sign Language Research and Training Centre (ISLRTC) from the current academic year;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether it is true that the Government had allocated funds for the said centre in the year 2010 and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether there is a growing emphasis on signing as a language to bridge the communication barrier between the deaf and the hearing; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

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

(a) & (b) Yes, Madam. As per the information furnished by the Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU), the Board of Management (BOM) of the University in its 118th meeting held on June 15, 2013 approved the disengagement of the Indian Sign Language Research and Training Centre (ISLRTC) from IGNOU as proposed by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment in view of the various constraints faced by the University pertaining to non-availability of the requisite land and other statutory provisions.

(c) As per the information furnished by IGNOU, the year-wise details of the funds received by IGNOU from Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment under ISLRTC are as under:

S.No Date of receiving Amount the Fund

1	21.09.2011	Rs. 74,50,000/-
2	21.09.2011	Rs. 1,25,50,000/-
3	26.03.2012	Rs. 9,25,50,000/-
4	30.03.2013	Rs. 3,00,00,000/-
5	17.09.2012	Rs. 2,20,00,000/-
Total Amount		Rs.16,45,50,000/-

(d) & (e) There is a need for growing emphasis on sign language for barrier free communication between deaf and the rest of the World. However, both training programmes and the facilities for imparting knowledge of sign language need to be properly designed and planned so that necessary infrastructure and trained human resources are available to run such programmes in a more professional way through a specialised institute.