

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1607  
ANSWERED ON:14.08.2013  
FREE ONLINE COURSES BY IITS  
Bhagora Shri Tarachand

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

- (a) whether the seven Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) are collaborating with the IT industry leaders and NASSCOM to offer free courses online which would revolutionise access to technical education;
- (b) if so, whether it is likely to widen the pool of talent from which the IT industry could draw and provide an alternative to privately run courses that fall short of industrial requirements; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

**Answer**

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

(a) to (c): Yes, Madam. The National Programme on Technology Enhanced Learning (NPTEL) is a joint project of the seven older Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) at Madras, Bombay, Delhi, Kanpur, Kharagpur, Guwahati and Roorkee and the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bangalore. The NPTEL's goal is to create and disseminate high quality content for online learning.

The NPTEL, alongwith the NASSCOM and software companies Cognizant, Infosys and Tata Consultancy Service (TCS), have proposed to conduct online courses in three Computer Science streams, i.e. Programming, Algorithms and Data Structures, for employment in the Information Technology (IT) sector and other hi-tech industries.