

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3229
ANSWERED ON:09.12.2009
ONLINE CAT EXAMINATION
Paranjpe Shri Anand Prakash

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

- (a) whether IIMs have proposed to conduct online CAT examination from this academic year;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the reasons for abandoning the old pattern of exam; and
- (d) the name of the agency assigned the work for conducting the exam and the expenditure incurred/ likely to be incurred thereon?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT(SMT. D. PURANDESWARI)

- (a)&(b) Yes sir, this academic year is the very first year that IIMs are conducting computerized Common Admission Test (CAT).
- (c) According to the Convener, CAT 2009, the traditional format of conducting CAT in paper-&-pencil format was becoming untenable for a number of reasons. Conducting the test on a single day all over India for about 2,50,000 candidates was putting severe strain on the faculty, staff, and the infrastructure of IIMs. Maintaining security of the test, carrying out logistics, and coordination with local schools and colleges was becoming quite challenging. In the long run, with increasing candidate numbers, cost per candidate for paper pencil test would become higher than the per candidate cost of a computerized test. Besides, computerized test has become the preferred form of administering entrance test globally.
- (d) Prometric, a firm specializing in conducting computerized test all over the world including GRE and TOEFL has been assigned the task of conducting the test. The actual infrastructure in all the 361 test labs is managed by the National Institute of Information Technology (NIIT), India. Prometric will get Rs.870/- per candidate from CAT committee after adjusting the expenses incurred on test development, research chairship, and project management of CAT, 2009. However, no payment has been made to Prometric so far.