

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4016
ANSWERED ON:19.02.2014
DISTANCE LEARNING COURSES BY IGNOU
Viswanathan Shri P.

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

- (a) the details of private and Government institutions approved by the Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) for conducting distance learning courses;
- (b) whether the courses of the private institutions have the approval of the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) and the University Grants Commission (UGC) and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) if not, the reaction of the Government on the fate of the students who have already completed the courses or are in the process of completing their courses in the above institutions; and
- (d) the steps taken/being taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

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

(a) to (d) As per the information furnished by the Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU), the University did not approve any institution, private and Government, to run its distance learning courses. However, during the period between 2006-2011, IGNOU signed a large number of Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) with various Partner Institutions in apparent disregard of the objectives of the IGNOU Act, 1985 and its Statutes which finally had given rise to large number of such institutions across the country which were offering programmes of all hues without following the prescribed mandatory procedures of the University, the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) and the University Grants Commission (UGC). All such MoUs and programmes emerging from these MoUs, have now been discontinued by IGNOU based on the recommendations of a High-Powered Committee of the University and approved by its Board of Management. As regards the fate of the students who have completed the courses or those who are in the process of completing their courses, the University has decided to issue course completion certificate(s)/allowing them to complete the course(s).