

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4045
ANSWERED ON:19.02.2014
COST EFFECTIVE INNOVATIONS
Gandhi Shri Feroze Varun

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

(a) whether the Government has taken / is taking any steps to promote the use of cost effective innovations by the information technology students on a large scale especially in rural areas; and

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (Dr. Shashi Tharoor)

(a): Yes, Madam. However, the use of cost-effective innovations by the IT students are being promoted at the national level, and not selectively on the basis of rural or urban segments.

(b): The Ministry is mandated to look after the expansion of access and qualitative improvement in the Higher Education. Information and Communication Technology (ICT) can be harnessed for augmenting the expansion as well as quality of education. ICT also acts as a multiplier for the capacity-building efforts of educational institutions without compromising the quality. Realizing the increasing importance and potential usage of ICT for accelerating access, equity and quality in the higher education sector, the Department of Higher Education had launched the National Mission on Education through Information and Communication Technology (NMEICT) in 2009. NMEICT had been envisaged as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme to leverage the potential of ICT, in providing high quality personalized and interactive knowledge modules over the internet/intranet for all the learners in Higher Education Institutions in a "anytime, anywhere" mode.

The Mission has two major components viz., (a) content generation and (b) connectivity, along with provision for access to devices for institutions and learners. For effective utilization of e-content, the Mission has plans to use appropriate pedagogy for e-learning, providing the facility of performing experiments through virtual laboratories, on-line testing and certification, on-line availability of teachers to guide and mentor learners, utilization of Direct to Home (DTH) platforms for inclusive access, training and empowerment of teachers to effectively use the new method of teaching learning etc.

At present, e-Content is available for all major engineering disciplines including Information technology. Most of the Information Technology students across the country benefit from this initiative without any payment, as the e-Content is available free in the public domain. All these initiatives enable IT students to use the material for further innovations in their PG and doctoral research.