

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:367

ANSWERED ON:25.02.2015

DIGITAL LITERACY

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes to introduce digital literacy in class room teaching for University students;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the time by which it is likely to be introduced;
- (c) whether the Government is planning to send teachers to Scotland for a course in Digital literacy;
- (d) if so, the number of teachers shortlisted and the criteria fixed for this purpose, State/ UT-wise and the amount incurred in this regard so far; and
- (e) the other steps taken/being taken by the Government for digitisation in education especially in Universities?

Answer

MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SMT. SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI)

(a) & (b): Universities are autonomous in academic matters such as framing curriculum of courses being offered in their campuses as well as the means of imparting class room teaching to the students. The foundational parts of undergraduate courses being offered by various higher educational institutions are already aligned to imparting digital literacy to students. The means of teaching may or may not incorporate digital tools like virtual classrooms, etc. However, the Central Government and the University Grants Commission (UGC) provide financial assistance for introduction of Information and Communications Technology (ICT) in teaching-learning, within and outside the classroom setting, and have made available high quality e-content and e-journals to University and College students to improve access to knowledge content. The Academic Staff Colleges, for offering refresher and orientation training to teachers of Universities and Colleges, are providing training in use of ICT in higher educational institutions to the trainees.

The Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Human Resource Development is currently implementing the National Mission on Education through Information and Communication Technology (NMEICT) to leverage the potential of ICT in teaching and learning process. Under the Scheme, apart from other activities, e-content in a number of subjects pertaining to the engineering, science, social science and humanities streams at Undergraduate (UG) and Postgraduates (PG) levels have been created for the benefit of the students and learners.

The Information and Library Network (INFLIBNET) Centre of the UGC has taken up a number of initiatives for enhancing access to academic resources through ICT, namely: i) UGC-Infonet Digital Library Consortium that extends access to selected scholarly electronic journals and databases to the universities in different disciplines; ii) Shodhganga: A Reservoir of Indian Electronic Theses and Dissertations, that enables online submission of theses and dissertations by research scholars in digital repository set-up at the INFLIBNET Centre; iii) Shodhgangotri that enables research scholars to submit approved synopsis of research proposal submitted to the university; iv) Open Journals Access System (OJAS) that facilitates faculty and researchers in Indian universities to launch their open access journals on OJAS platform offered by the INFLIBNET Centre; v) Access management technologies that would facilitate users to access e-resources irrespective of their physical location. Besides, the Centre through a project entitled "National Library and Information Services Infrastructure for Scholarly Content" (N-LIST) provides access to electronic journals and electronic books to eligible colleges.

(c) & (d): The University of Delhi has informed that its Campus of Open Learning and Edinburgh College, Scotland have a MOU under UKIERI project (United Kingdom –India Education Research Initiative). As a result, University of Delhi organizes D-LITE (Digital Learning and Innovation for Tomorrow Education) where faculty members of the colleges are being trained on Digital/E-learning tools such as Web 2.0 tools, advanced presentation/audio- video lectures for classroom teaching with effect from 2013 to 2015.

The first phase of the training was held in the University of Delhi in 2014. Out of 35 applications received for the training, four Digital Literacy Champions were selected based on assessment of assignments given to them by the Project Incharge Edinburgh College, Scotland. As on date four teachers have visited Scotland for this purpose so far. The second phase of the training has been announced by the University of Delhi.

No expenditure has been incurred by the University of Delhi on this project as the total expenditure is borne from UK funding.

(e): Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Madras along with its National Programme on Technology Enhanced Learning (NPTEL) partners and National Association of Software and Services Companies (NASSCOM) have run, three Massive Online Open Courses (MOOCs) of 10 weeks each. IIT Madras is offering certification on successful completion of the course and nominal fee for online examination and certification is charged. Similarly IIT Kanpur has conducted five Online Courses with certification of 4-5 weeks duration. IIT Bombay has also run four courses globally and three more courses are currently going on. A project on the " Development of National Digital Library" has also been sanctioned to IIT Kharagpur.