

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2401
ANSWERED ON:11.03.2015
CLOSURE OF PROGRAMMES BY IGNOU
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Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) is unexpectedly cancelling many of its ongoing programmes including community colleges;
- (b) if so, the details of the programmes and community colleges closed/cancelled by the IGNOU during the last two years and the current year, year-wise;
- (c) whether the Government has received any complaints regarding functioning of IGNOU in this regard and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the Government has set up an expert committee of academicians and education administrators to review the functioning of IGNOU and if so, the details of the major recommendations made by the committee; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

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

(a) & (b): As per the information furnished by the Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU), during 2006-2011, a large number of programmes were offered through face-to-face mode by the University by signing MoUs with Private Institutions which were not as per the mandate of the university. Subsequently, based on the report of a High Powered Committee, the university has discontinued/kept in abeyance some of its programmes including community colleges offered through face-to-face mode and also programmes running in collaboration with other institutions in the country and abroad from the academic cycle commencing July, 2012. The main reasons were that the courses offered were neither in accordance with the university's Statutes nor the University had domain knowledge and subject expertise in their curriculum design and delivery.

IGNOU has further informed that the university did not close any academic programme imparted through distance learning mode of education during the last three years (up to January, 2015). However, on the directions of 117th meeting of the Board of Management (BoM) of the university held on 05.01.2013, 245 academic programmes have been kept in abeyance as they did not meet the requirement of the University Act/Statutes/Ordinances (Annexure-I).

Further, the Scheme of the Community College (CC) of IGNOU was started during the year 2009. 620 Community Colleges across the country were registered under the Community College Scheme of IGNOU through MoUs. 88 out of these CCs were deregistered in 2011 as they were inactive. Out of the remaining 532 CCs, 253 were the active CCs wherein 1,42,333 students were enrolled. IGNOU has further informed that university has already taken action with regard to declaration of results and accordingly, 42,235 grade cards and provisional certificates have been issued to the students registered under Community College Scheme.

(c): Yes, Madam. This Ministry has received complaints from various quarters regarding the overall functioning of the IGNOU including sudden closure of some of the programmes/courses run by the university with other institution(s)/organisation(s) under the provisions of MoUs.

(d) to (e): The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) is already inquiring into the matter. In addition, with the approval of the Visitor of the University, a one man inquiry under Prof. Syed A. Bari, Vice-Chancellor, Central University of Gujarat has been instituted to look into the various shortfalls, irregularities and excessive action committed by Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) between 20.10.2011 onwards till date.