

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4745  
ANSWERED ON:22.04.2015  
ONLINE COURSES  
Dwivedi Shri Harish;Singh Shri Sunil Kumar

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

- (a.) whether the Government has any proposal to connect various universities and their affiliated colleges online and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Government proposes to start online courses in the field of social issues and skill development, etc. on the lines of foreign universities;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the time by which it is likely to be started; and
- (d) the steps taken/being taken by the Government in this regard/

**Answer**

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

- (a) Yes, Madam. Under National Mission on Education through Information and Communication Technology (NMEICT) scheme, 403 universities have been provided 1Gbps connectivity and 21,766 colleges, including affiliated colleges through 20 nodes each of 512 Kbps broadband connectivity, so far.
- (b) to (d) The Government does not conduct online courses itself, however, it facilitates the educational institutes to make and offer online courses in various disciplines under NMEICT scheme. Institutes like NT Madras and a few other institutions have already started to offer Massive Online Open Courses (MOOCs) for the benefit of learners.