

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3857
ANSWERED ON:06.08.2014
SETTING UP OF RURAL UNIVERSITY
Jardosh Smt. Darshana Vikram

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

- (a) the action taken by the Government in consultation with University Grants Commission to set up Rural University in the country; and
- (b) the steps taken by the Government to introduce various courses including Gandhian studies?

Answer

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

(a): At present, there is no proposal to set up Rural University in the country by the University Grants Commission (UGC) or Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD).

(b): The University Grants Commission (UGC) has started a scheme of "Epoch Making Social Thinkers of India" in various universities/colleges to introduce various courses on great thinkers and social leaders, their thoughts and philosophies including Gandhian studies. As reported by the UGC, under this scheme 85 Gandhian Studies Centres have been approved by the UGC for continuation in the XII Plan and 55 Centres have been approved for establishment during XII Plan w.e.f 2013-14. Details of the scheme are available at <http://www.ugc.ac.in/oldpdf/xiplanpdf/epochmakingsociathinkers1.pdf>.