GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2489
ANSWERED ON:31.07.2017
Initiatives in Higher Education
Bala Smt. Anju

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

(a) whether the Government has recently launched three digital initiatives− Swayam, Swayam Prabha and National Academic Depository and if so, the details thereof;
(b) whether the Government has also decided to adopt a 17-point action plan for this year, including building digital campuses, if so, the details thereof;
(c) whether the Government has given four mega projects along with six integrated projects to Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Kharagpur and if so, the details thereof;
(d) whether the Government is also planning to introduce an integrated B.Ed. courses so that students can decide on becoming teachers after Class 12 and if so, the details thereof; and
(e) whether the Government has approved the University Grants Commission panel's recommendations regarding implementation of seventh pay commission in Universities and colleges and if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

(DR. MAHENDRA NATH PANDEY)

(a) to (b) Yes, Madam. The Ministry of Human Resource Development has recently organized a National Convention on Digital Initiatives for Higher Education, from 8th to 10th July, 2017 at Vigyan Bhavan, New Delhi where all Vice-chancellors of Central Universities, Deemed-to-be Universities, Private Universities, State Universities, State Private Universities, Directors of Central Institutes such as IITs, IIMs, IISERs, IISc, IIITs, NITs and other central institutes also participated. Various digital initiatives under the National Mission on Education through Information and Communication Technology, were formally launched by Hon'ble President of India, namely:-
(i) SWAYAM, an indigenous MOOCs (Massive Open Online Courses) Platform for providing best quality education to anyone, anytime and anywhere using the IT System;
(ii) SWAYAM Prabha, the 32 Direct-to-Home Channels for transmitting high quality educational content on 24X7 basis direct to every home, without any charge; and
(iii) The National Academic Depository (NAD), a digital depository which authenticates all the certificates issued by Institutions as per the need of the users.
An action plan for this year including building digital campus has also been prepared which is at Annexure.
(c) IIT Kharagpur has been sanctioned Four Mega Projects namely (i) Signals & Systems in Life Science (ii) Future of Cities, (iii) Technological Interventions for Food Sustainability and (iv) Science & Heritage Initiative along with the six integrated projects that are namely innovative infrastructure, digital convergence, transport technologies, affordable health care, advanced manufacturing and geo-science for future of earth.
(d) NCTE has already introduced B.A., B.Sc., B.Ed. four years integrated course notified on 28.11.2014. The four year integrated programme aims at integrating general studies comprising science (B.Sc., B.Ed.) and social sciences or humanities (B.A., B.Ed.) and professional studies comprising foundations of education, pedagogy of school subjects and practicum related to the tasks and functions of a school teacher. It maintains a balance between theory and practice, and coherence and integration among the components of the programme, representing a wide knowledge base of a secondary school teacher. The programme aims at preparing teachers for upper primary and secondary stages of education.
(e) The University Grants Commission (UGC) had constituted a Pay Review Committee (PRC) for revision of pay of academic staff of Universities and Colleges. The report of the PRC along with its recommendations has been received by the Ministry. The report of the PRC has been examined by an Empowered Committee constituted by the Ministry. The recommendation of the Empowered Committee is under consideration of

the Central Government.
*****
ANNEXURE TO LSUQ NO. 2489
NATIONAL CONVENTION on
DIGITAL INITIATIVES FOR HIGHER EDUCATION
9th July 2017
Action Plan 17-by-17
(17 points to be achieved by all the Vice Chancellors by Dec 2017)
SWAYAM
1. Approve the courses on offer: The list of courses which are being offered for the coming Semester is available on www.swayam.gov.in . All VCs and Heads of Institutions are requested to take approval of the Competent Authority (Academic Council/Senate) for these courses so that students can opt for them, and seek transfer of credits.
2. Publicise the courses: The SWAYAM courses shall be publicised by printing posters, WhatsApp messages, Facebook posts and Twitter accounts of the University. The objective is to reach as many people as possible so that they can get benefited by these courses.
3. Prepare new courses: If there are talented teachers in the Universities who are willing to place their course on SWAYAM, they should be encouraged. Such proposals may be sent to the National Coordinator for approval and for providing funding to prepare the courses.
4. Retrain teachers: All teachers may be asked to use the SWAYAM courses during their own teaching process so that we can have a blended learning process. The flipped classroom model, where the SWAYAM videos are seen at home, and there is a discussion in the class would help in improving the quality of learning.
5. Monitoring Cell: Every University should have a Digital Learning Monitoring Cell which reviews the current use of these digital resources and suggests way to improving their utilisation further in the university and the affiliated institutions.
SWAYAM Prabha DTH channels
6. Buy Free Dish for accessing SWAYAM Prabha Channels: Every VC may instruct buying of the DD Free Dish from the market (costs about Rs. 1400 one-time cost only) and configure these channels in their office first; and later install in as many class-rooms as possible.
7. Mandate other affiliated colleges: The same message may be given to all the affiliated institutions for setting up these channels and operationalising them immediately.
8. Orient the teachers: VCs may hold orientation sessions for all the teachers so that they see and use these channels while teaching their courses.
National digital library
9. Join the NDL: All institutions and the affiliated colleges may immediately join the National Digital Library at https://ndl.iitkgp.ac.in/. This will help students to access more than 80 lakh digital resources at no cost. Universalise access: Pl ensure that all the students log-in and join the NDL. While doing the class work/assignments, they may be asked to use these resources.
10.Digitise your libraries: All books in the libraries may be digitised and shared with the NDL at IIT Kharagpur so that it would add to the digital resources and there is greater sharing of the digital resources by all institutions.
National Academic Depository
11.Join the NAD: Every institution should join the NAD which hold all the certificates digitally. All the past certificates/degrees/diplomas issued should also be uploaded on to the NAD. For more details, please see https://cvl.nad.co.in/NAD/home.action
Other digital initiatives
12.Digital campus: All campus processes like admissions, academic calendar, attendance, assessments, result declaration, administration, pay roll, financial and such other processes shall be computerised.
13.Smart Campus: Every campus shall plan for efficient and economical use of water, electricity and waste. Use of solar power and water recycling systems may be planned for, as they

would bring sustainability and savings in the long run.

14.Clean campus: Every campus shall participate in the Swachh Bharat Abhiyaan and achieve clean campus that has clean toilets, systems for solid/liquid waste management. There will be swachhata rankings of all institutions and the best institutions would be rewarded.

15.Unnat Bharat Abhiyaan: Every institution to adopt atleast 5 villages and help in translating their knowledge for the use of the rural poor.

16.Innovation drives: Students may be encouraged to think out-ofthe-box and arrive at solutions that are innovative. For this competitions may be organised for all students covering various areas. Every institution should try to participate in the hackathons that are being organised by various agencies, apart from Govt. Planning

17.Plan for future: Every institution should plan for the future. They should constitute a group within the campus for preparing the following:

a. A 15-year vision: to determine where the institution would like to be.

b. A 7-year strategic plan: to work out medium term plans to reach there

c. A 3-year action plan: for immediate improvement of the quality of learning.

***