# GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
# HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
# LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:616
ANSWERED ON:26.11.2014
VIRTUAL CLASSROOMS AND TEACHER TRAINING PROGRAMME
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**Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:**

(a) whether the Government has set up virtual classrooms and online courses;

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government has launched Pt. Madan Mohan Malviya "Teachers Training Programme"; and

(d) if so, the salient features of the scheme?

# Answer

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

(a) Yes, Madam.

(b) Under National Knowledge Network (NKN), Department of Electronics & Information Technology (DeitY) has initiated a project on 'Creation of Virtual Classrooms at IITs in 2009. Under this project, 66 virtual classrooms have been set-up at IITs, IISc etc A list of Virtual Classrooms set up by NKN is attached at Annexure-I. Further National Institute of Electronics and IT (NIELIT), an autonomous Institute under DeitY, has implemented Virtual Classroom facility in 15 NIELIT Centres. NIELIT has developed e-Content /e-Book for its IT Literacy course viz. CCC (Course on Computer Concepts) in 25 Indian languages, which are available on NIELIT Website free of cost.

The National Mission on Education through Information and Communication Technology (NMEICT) launched in 2009, apart from other activities is also involved in creating e-content for the students and learners. More than 700 courses in various disciplines in engineering and science are available on-line under National Programme on Technology Enhanced Learning (NPTEL). E-content for 8 undergraduate subjects has also been generated by the Consortium of Educational Communication (CEC) in collaboration with its Media Centres. Over 100 Virtual Labs in 9 Engineering & Science disciplines, comprising about 770 experiments are currently ready for use and available. 1500 Spoken Tutorials are available on line. More than 200 courses for design have been created. The "National Library and information Services infrastructure for Scholarly Content (NLIST)", funded by NMEICT, provides for access to scholarly content to educational institutions. The programme provides access to more than 6328 e-journals and 97,300 e-books to degree colleges. The details about NMEICT Mission are available at www.nmeict.ac.in.

Government has decided to offer Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) through the indigenously developed SWAYAM platform. This will offer courses in diverse academic fields and shall be available to all Indian learners, including to those who are not enrolled in any college or university. NPTEL has already developed more than 600 courses in different technical fields and around 200 courses are currently under development. CEC has developed courses in 08 subjects and courses in 11 more subjects shall be added by the end of December, 2014.

(c) & (d) The Government in recent budget has announced Madan Mohan Malviya Teachers Training programme. The programme envisions to focus holistically on the whole sector of education without fragmenting it based on levels and sectors and also to strengthen institutional mechanisms for strengthening vertical and lateral linkages. This would consolidate and strengthen on-going programmes related to teachers and teaching through effective coordination. It will have role in policy, regulation and oversight of new schemes for teachers and teaching. It will also provide an integrated platform for building synergies among all the existing initiatives and will attempt to create a comprehensive vehicle for Teacher/Faculty related programmes and schemes. The programme envisages augmenting capacity at individual level and also enhancing institutional infrastructure to give impetus to training of teachers at pre service and in service level.