

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:934
ANSWERED ON:13.07.2004
DISTANT EDUCATION
Satpathy Shri Tathagata

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

- (a) whether the Government has noticed an unprecedented rise in distant education centres of various universities and professional institutes in the country during the last five years and current year as well; . ,
- (b) if so, the details thereof, University/Institution-wise;
- (c) whether the Government has made any survey work with regard to quality of education being provided by these institutions;
- (d) if so, the outcome thereof; and
- (e) the steps proposed for better quality and for regulation of the centres alongwith course contents?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI)

(a) & (b) : According to the information furnished by Indira Gandhi National Open University, 11 Open Universities and 104 Conventional Universities are running distance education programmes through their Regional Centres and Study Centres. The University-wise details may be seen at Annexure, The Open Universities have a total of 4020 Study Centres and 103 Regional Centres, whereas the number of Study Centres of Conventional Universities in dual mode is 2136.

(c) to (e) The Distance Education Council (DEC) a Statutory body under Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) Act, 1985 has been taking both pro-active and corrective measures to maintain quality of distance education programmes provided by the institutions.

The Distance Education Council has extended financial support to all the State Open Universities and has sent Expert Committees to ensure quality of their distance education programmes, It has also extended financial support to some of the Conventional Universities in dual mode and has accorded necessary permission to them to use course material of IGNOU. DEC is persuading them to seek its approval for recognition of the degrees, diplomas and certificates being provided by them. DEC is also developing national pool of quality course material and greater ICT support to learners.