

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:172

ANSWERED ON:27.02.2007

DISTANCE EDUCATION

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

- (a) whether distance education is becoming more popular in the country;
- (b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (c) the Central and State institutes offering education through correspondence and distance medium;
- (d) whether any incident of harassment of students have been reported in these distance educational institutes;
- (e) if so, the details of such incidents;
- (f) the steps taken by the Government to solve the problems based on these grievances; and
- (g) the details of the success achieved through these steps?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SMT. D. PURANDESWARI)

(a)&(b): Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) has informed that the enrollment figure of the students in Open Universities and Distance Education Institutions suggests that Distance Education is becoming popular in the country. It is a welcome sign.

(c): According to IGNOU, 10 Central Universities, 20 Deemed Universities, 87 State Universities (including State Open Universities) and 2 Institutes of National Importance are offering education through distance mode.

(d) to (g): The Government, from time to time, receive the representations from the students enrolled with institutions offering distance education programmes regarding their grievances such as change of the study centre, delay in receipt of study material, discrepancies in awards, mark- sheets and declaration of the results. Since, the universities offering distance education programme are autonomous institutions with their own decision making mechanism, the aforesaid representations are forwarded to them for appropriate necessary remedial action.