GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4364
ANSWERED ON:16.12.2009
FAILURE OF ONLINE CAT
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Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the first online Common Admission Test (CAT) for the Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs) conducted in November, 2009 was not successful due to server breakdown;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government has sought any report in regard to the technical failure during the online CAT entrance examination;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps being taken to put a foolproof mechanism in place for the CAT aspirants in future?

Answer

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

(a)&(b): The computerized CAT 2009 involved deploying 361 servers all across the country simultaneously for 11 days amounting to a total of 3971 server-days. Of the total server-days, only 192 server-days were down in the testing period.Thus, only about 4.8 percent of the total server- days were down.Candidates who were affected due to the server problems were rescheduled to test on other days.

(c)&(d): The Ministry asked Convener CAT Center, IIM, Ahmedabad to keep the Ministry informed by furnishing daily updates on the CAT 2009.

(e) IIMs have put in place a process to identify the causes for disruptions noticed and reported during the entire testing period and these are being addressed to ensure smooth testing for the currently held CAT and for the future tests.