

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA): (a) to (d) The Government is making all efforts to commence the academic session of the Indian Institute of Management, Calicut from the year 1997-98. A total outlay of Rs. 43.11 crore, upto the end of the Ninth Plan period, has been approved for the institute, and for 1996-97 an amount of Rs. 1.00 crore has been allocated. Pending registration of the Society, no grant has been released so far. In the first year of the academic session, total intake of students will be 50 for the Post Graduate Programme in Management.

#### Distance Education

1443. SHRI IQBAL SINGH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the distance education is considered as an alternative method of providing education to the masses of the rural areas in the country;

(b) if so, what are the reasons for charging high fees from the students belonging to the poor families in the rural areas in the country; and

(c) the effective measures taken by Government to fix the minimum/reasonable fees for the various courses and programmes available at the Indira Gandhi National Open University, in the interest of the poor people?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA): (a) to (c) The Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) Act, 1985 provides access to higher education for large segments of the population, and in particular, the disadvantaged groups such as those living

in remote rural areas through distance education mode. The university provides to all its students self-instructional learning packages of high quality produced by teams of experts drawn from all parts of the country. IGNOU's policy for charging fees envisages recovery of the part of the cost of production of these materials and also cost of various services provided to the students such as counselling, practicals, work experience, assignments and conduct of examinations etc. Programmes which involve larger components of practicals/work experience attract a higher fee where programmes which do not have practical components are charged a lower level of fee. Considering the fact that IGNOU does not fully recover the recurring cost incurred on its students, there is no possibility of the University reducing the fee presently charged.

#### Development of horticulture in Orissa

1444. SHRI RAHASBIHARI BARIK: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a vast scope for the development of horticulture in Orissa;

(b) if so, the fund allocation made for the purpose during the Eighth Plan, year-wise; and

(c) the specific steps taken during the said period to develop horticulture, with details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Year-wise funds released to Orissa State for development of horticulture during VIII Plan are as under:—

Year	Funds released (Rs. in lakhs)
1992-93	62.52
1993-94	278.00
1994-95	298.57
1995-96	366.47