

— 27 Curriculum Development Centres in Sciences and Humanities established to modernise curricula. Model curricula has been prepared for 27 disciplines in undergraduate and post-graduate courses.

— Financial assistance provided by UGC For improvement in teaching and research under Special Assistance programmes, like Centres of Advanced Study, COSIP, COSIST, etc.

— Inter-University Centres established by UGC to provide front-line facilities and services for advancement of research in the university system.

— Higher priority given to grant of autonomy to selected Colleges and University Departments.

— Guidelines for implementation of an Academic Calendar circulated. These guidelines emphasize observance of at least 180 teaching days by Universities/Colleges.

— Regulations for minimum standards for the award of first degree, minimum working days etc. notified by UGC.

Irregularities in IGNOU

590. PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) was intended to be a pioneer institution in the country in the field of education;

(b) if so, the extent to which IGNOU has come to its ideal and goals;

(c) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item published in the Indian Express of 28th April, 1994 under the caption probe demanded into IGNOU

bunglings' to the effect that IGNOU is infested with administrative, academic and financial irregularities; and

(d) if so, the points brought out in the news and the action taken on each of them?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPTT. OF EDUCATION AND DEPTT. OF CULTURE) (KUMARI SELJA): (a) and (b) The Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) was established for the introduction and promotion of Open University and distance education system, and for the coordination and determination of standards in the country. The University has been endeavouring to introduce and develop distance education programmes and the promotion of the open university system. The progress made by the University in various spheres of its activities is briefly indicated in the Annual Report for the year 1992-93.

(c) and (d) According to the information furnished by IGNOU, the points made in the news item and the position relating to them are briefly as follows:

(i) The IGNOU has been mired in controversies over reports of bunglings; there are 22 cases pending in courts against the University.

— Since its inception in 1985 the IGNOU has opened 16 Regional Centres, 229 Study Centres and has an annual admission of about 80,000 students. In April 1994 there were 26 cases pending in various courts against the University. Of these 13 were in respect of service matters filed by present/former employees. 5 cases have been filed by students of the University in various consumer courts against non-receipt of study material. 8 cases have been filed by outsiders against the University.

(h) A group of IGNOU employees called "Save IGNOU Group"

has charged the Vice-Chancellor with making illegal appointment to its. The appointment of Shri Veerabadhu, as Chief Executive on contract and paying him Rs. 7000/- as salary in violation of the guidelines has been referred.

— The University has no information about any group of employees called "Save IGNOU group" in the University. There are several associations representing Teachers, Officers, Non-teaching staff, Secretarial staff, Professional and Technical staff, SC/ST employees etc.

— Shri N. Veerabadhu, who was Chief Engineer in (CPWD), was appointed by the University as Chief Engineer on deputation on 4-7-1991. on his retirement from the CPWD, the University appointed him on contract basis as Chief Engineer on a consolidated salary of Rs. 7000/-per month. He was not appointed as consultant.

(iii) There are charges of mis-use of Japanese grant amounting to Rs. 7.94 crores; teachers belonging to the Group say that there are no records available to indicate utilisation of the equipment purchased from the grant.

— The Government of Japan provided a grant of Rs. 611 million Yen (Approx. Rs. 7.50 crores) in November, 1988 to set up a modern post production facility for producing audio-video learning packages for the University's programmes. According to this agreement, all the equipment was to be procured, supplied and installed by the Japanese authorities themselves. Accordingly, the Japanese authorities supplied and installed the equipment and commissioned the facility in May, 1990.

(iv) Non-acceptance of the teachers' demand for 1/3rd elected representation in both the Academic Council and the Board of Management and alleged systematic effort to marginalise teachers from the crucial process of decision-making.

— The Academic Council and the Board of Management are constituted according to provision in the Act and statutes. The existing composition of these bodies, which includes representatives of teachers does not envisage election of representatives of teachers..

महिलाओं पर अत्याचार रोकने के लिये महिला आयोग

591. श्रीमती अश्विनी अश्विनी शर्मा :
श्री गीतानंद सिंह जी :
सोमनाथ :

क्या भारत सरकार विकास मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) महिलाओं पर अत्याचार रोकने के लिये किन-किन राज्यों में महिला आयोगों का गठन किया गया है ;

(ख) ऐसे आयोग किन-किन राज्यों में गठित किये जाने का विचार है ;

(ग) ऐसे आयोग सभी राज्यों में कब तक गठित किये जाने की संभावना है ;

(घ) क्या वत एक वर्ष के दौरान इन आयोगों की कोई उपलब्धियाँ रही हैं ; और

(ङ) यदि हाँ, तो उनका स्वीकार क्या है और यदि नहीं, तो इसके क्या कारण हैं ?

भारत सरकार विकास मंत्रालय (महिला और बाल विकास विभाग) में राज्य मंत्री (श्रीमती अश्विनी शर्मा) :
(क) राज्य महिला आयोगों की स्थापना असम, दिल्ली, महाराष्ट्र, उड़ीसा, तमिलनाडु, त्रिपुरा और पश्चिमी बंगाल राज्यों में की गई है ।

(ख) और (ग) राज्य महिला आयोगों की स्थापना के लिये सभी राज्य सरकारों को अनुरोध जारी किये गये हैं । किन्तु, इन आयोगों की स्थापना करना राज्य सरकारों का कार्य है ।