

it was decided not to hold any further enquiry at this stage.

Open University/School Education System in the Country

839. SHRI SHANTI TYAGI : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the names of open Universities together with their location and the number of students enrolled therein;

(b) whether Government propose to expand the open university education sys-

tem and if so, the details of the same; and

(c) whether Government have also decided to expand the National Open School System in the country during the Eighth Plan period, and if so, the details thereof ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPTT. OF EDUCATION AND DEPTT. OF CULTURE) (KUMARI SELJA) : (a) According to the Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU), information regarding Open Universities is as follows :

Name	Location	Enrolment
1. Indira Gandhi National Open University	New Delhi	1,45,000
2. Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Open University	Hyderabad (Andhra Pradesh)	
3. Kota Open University	Kota (Rajasthan)	
4. Nalanda Open University	Patna (Bihar)	
5. Yashwantrao Chavan Maharashtra Open University	Nasik (Maharashtra)	

Comulative enrolment figures of State Open Universities are not maintained by IGNOU.

(b) and (c) The Open Learning System (OLS) falls within the purview of the thrust areas of the Eighth Plan.

The National Policy on Education (NPE), 1986 as modified in 1992 envisages the strengthening of the Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) and establishment of more State Open Universities. It also envisages the strengthening of the National Open School (NOS) and extension of Open Learning facilities in a phased manner at the secondary level in all parts of the country.

IGNOU's major thrust would be on introduction of non-traditional employment oriented courses, strengthening of its student support services and improvement of correspondence education. In pursuance of its role as a national apex body for

promotion, coordination and determination of standards in distance education, IGNOU has set up a Distance Education Council (DEC) as a Statutory authority of the University. As specified in the IGNOU Act and as reiterated in POA 1992, IGNOU will also provide financial support to existing as well as new State Open Universities. Detailed guidelines have been framed for this purpose by the DEC.

The National Open School is expected to diversify its courses, accredit vocational institutions in different State/Union Territories, adopt a multi-media instructional strategy, arrange for broad publicity particularly among the rural population and also provide assistance to the Open Schools to be established by the States.

The actual expansion of the Open University/Open School Education system in the Eighth Plan would, however, to a large extent depend on the availability of funds for this purpose and the view taken in the matter by the State Governments.