

Distance Education Council

4063. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO:
SHRI RAMAMUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY:

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

(a) the mandate given to the Distance Education Council under the IGNOU Act, 1985;

(b) what measures the Council is taking to maintain the standards in the higher distance education system;

(c) the details of the allocation made to IGNOU during the last five years; year-wise;

(d) whether it is a fact that allocation to IGNOU has come down during the last five years; and

(e) if so, the details thereof, year-wise and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALIASHRAF FATMI): (a) Under the IGNOU Act, 1985 the Distance Education Council (DEC) has been mandated to function as an apex body for promotion, determination and maintenance of standards and to further coordination in open and distance education in India.

(b) The measures taken by DEC are as under:

- (i) Approval of programmes and institutions of universities/deemed universities and Institutions of National importance.
- (ii) Impact assessment of State Open Universities (SOUs) and dual-mode universities which received grants during Ninth Plan period.
- (iii) Development assistance to SOUs and Correspondence Course Institutes (CCIs) of conventional universities for improvement of coursewares and incorporation of technology in delivery of programmes, staff training and development.
- (iv) Development of norms and standards for delivery of professional programmes.

(c) to (e) The Plan funds allocated to IGNOU during the last 5 years are as under:—

Year	Amount (in crores)
2000-01	42.00
2001-02	56.00
2002-03	35.30
2003-04	20.00
2004-05	67.00

During the years 2002-03 and 2003-04, Plan grants were released to IGNOU only on an *ad hoc* basis, as the approval for the continuance of the scheme of IGNOU and Open Learning System during the Tenth Plan was under process.

Upgradation of skills of women

4064. SHRIMATI HEMA MALINI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any initiatives to upgrade the skills of women through training;

(b) if so, the salient features thereof; and

(c) the number of women in the organised sector who are expected to be benefited, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Swawlamban Scheme, previously known as NORAD, aims at providing training and skills to poor and needy women in both traditional and non-traditional trades to enable them obtain employment or self-employment on a sustained basis. It lays focus on the women from weaker sections such as scheduled castes and scheduled tribes.

The Support to Training and Employment Programme for Women (STEP) Scheme aims at providing training and skill upgradation of women in traditional sectors enabling them enhance their earning capacity. It also has a component of various support services.