

To ensure protection of the ancient sculptures and artifacts in the nationally protected monuments, sites and museums, watch and ward staff have been deployed. Their strength has been supplemented by private security guards, State Police and Central Industrial Security Force. The Government is also considering the amendment of the Antiquities and Art Treasures Act 1972 to cope up with illicit traffic in antiquities.

Distance Learning Programme in collaboration with foreign universities

*535. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that IGNOU has signed agreement with the foreign universities for carrying out distance learning programmes during 2005-06;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have recognized the degrees to be awarded by IGNOU under such agreements; and

(d) if so, whether Government have issued necessary notification in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) and (b) According to the information furnished by Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU), recently the Board of Management of IGNOU has approved the signing of Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with six foreign educational institutions including universities. The details are given in the Statement. (See below)

(c) and (d) Under section 6 of the IGNOU Act, 1985, the University shall, in the the exercise of its powers, have jurisdiction over the whole of India and to the Study Centres outside India. According to the University all the Degrees/Diploma/Certificates awarded by IGNOU in collaboration with foreign educational institutions are recognized in the respective foreign countries.

Statement

List of foreign Institutions approved for signing of MoU with IGNOU

— Capital Normal University, Beijing, China.

- Mauritius Institute of Education (MIE), Mauritius.
- International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), Washington, US.
- Shandong Textile Vocational College (STVC), China.
- The University of Fiji, Lautoka, Fiji Islands.
- Commonwealth of Learning (CoL), Vanouver, Canada.

Recruitment of quality teaching staff

*536. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that various Indian Institutes of Technology are finding it difficult to recruit teaching staff and these institutions are likely to face shortage of qualified staff in the coming years;

(b) if so, the details of the existing vacancies in the IITs, institute-wise; and

(c) the steps being taken to review the situation and fill up these vacancies early, in a time-bound manner, so that the quality of these premier institutions of excellence does not suffer due to shortage of qualified staff?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) Some of the IITs have expressed difficulty in recruiting quality teachers.

(b) The details of the existing vacancies in the IITs are as under:—

Sl. No.	Name of the IIT	No. of Existing Vacancies
1.	IIT Bombay	22
2.	IIT Delhi	168
3.	IIT Guwahati	131
4.	IIT Kanpur	100
5.	IIT Kharagpur	48
6.	IIT Madras	73
7.	IIT Roorkee	229