

(a) whether certain formalities are required to be completed before Distance Education Council (DEC) permits UGC listed recognised universities to start conducting distance education programmes;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to make similar regulation for distance education programmes by empowering Central/State universities to conduct and award both full-time as well as distance education programmes, since both UGC and DEC are now under one umbrella?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SHASHI THAROOR): (a) and (b) As per the information furnished by the Distance Education Council (DEC), the university concerned has to submit a proposal to the DEC in the prescribed Proforma for offering programmes through the distance mode. The recognition of a distance mode programme *inter-alia* requires scrutiny of the proposal at the level of the DEC as per its guidelines, visit of an expert committee consisting of subject experts, nominees of the University Grants Commission (UGC) and the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) etc., submission of the recommendations of the expert committee to the competent authority of the DEC and finally conveying of the decision of the competent authority to the concerned university in the matter.

(c) The DEC is responsible for the promotion, coordination and determination of standards of the open and distance education system offered in a flexible mode in the country. The regulations of the DEC or the UGC are applicable to the Central/State universities as well, if they intend to offer distance education programmes.

Introduction of financial education in post-primary level curriculum

2871. SHRI B.S. GNANADESIKAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether CBSE has decided to take a lead in introducing financial education in its post-primary level curriculum;

(b) whether RBI has also preferred integration of financial education at an early stage of a person's life cycle as the rate of school drop-out is high in the country; and