

(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

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SHASHI THAROOR): (a) In compliance with the recommendations of the National Curriculum Framework (NCF) 2005 on relating education to daily life, the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has constantly been working to introduce financial education in its post primary level classes in an inter-disciplinary approach. The CBSE considers that creating awareness of saving, banking, debit and credit is essential to make education more meaningful for daily life requirement and transactions.

(b) and (c) The Reserve Bank of India has constituted a Technical Group on Financial inclusion and Literacy. As per the decision taken in the meetings, the CBSE has developed some portions of the content of the work book for Classes VI, VII, VIII, IX and X in related subjects like Geography, History, Economics, English and Mathematics with the help of a group of teachers.

Internet based knowledge sharing platform for colleges

2872. SHRI S. THANGAVELU: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an internet based knowledge sharing platform will soon connect 20,000 colleges across the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that with A-VIEW, one good teacher can teach tens of thousands of students simultaneously at different locations all over the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SHASHI THAROOR): (a) and (b) Under the National Mission on Education through Information and Communication Technology (NMEICT), it has been envisaged to provide 15-20 Virtual Private Network over Broadband (VPNBB) internet connections of 512 Kbps each to over 25000+ colleges and 2000 polytechnics. As on 28.02.2013, connectivity to 19875 colleges in various States has been provided.