

Non-recognition to MA degree course of British Universities

3513. SHRI BAISHNAB PARIDA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of Indian students go to UK to pursue studies in one year MA degree course in British Universities;

(b) whether it is also a fact that some of them continue to pursue further higher studies for gaining Ph.D degree;

(c) whether after obtaining such a degree, when they come back to India, their one year course in MA and Ph.D degree are not recognized in the country and they face a lot of mental tension and agony after spending a good amount of time and money on their studies abroad; and

(d) if so, the action plan of Government to help them out of this dilemma?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SHASHI THAROOR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Some of the Indian students going to UK for pursuing higher studies opt for one-year MA degree courses in British Universities.

(c) and (d) The issue of recognition of one-year MA degrees was taken up in the India-UK Qualification Recognition Task Force constituted for this purpose. The Task Force met on 28th January, 2013 and has decided to explore the possibility of creating an enabling environment in India, by introducing the necessary bridging mechanism, through which Indian nationals holding a Master's degree from an accredited and recognized British University are able to pursue higher studies in India.

Decision to shift distance education council of IGNOU to UGC

3514. DR. CHANDAN MITRA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has decided to shift the Distance Education Council of IGNOU to University Grants Commission;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor along with likely impact of this decision on the students studying under Distance Learning Programme; and