

to conduct online classroom lectures to expand its reach of the students across the country in the near future;

(b) if so, the details of such concept and Government's response thereto;

(c) whether Government is promoting such idea to conduct online classroom lectures for the benefit of more students in the country; and

(d) if so, details of support and co-operation will be made to the universities for the technology based learning in the country, if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI): (a) Yes Sir. The Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) has invited proposals from Universities including Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) for contributing to the conduct of Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) to expand the reach of education to students across the country, in the near future.

(b) The MHRD is in the process of preparing, under the project 'Study Webs of Active Learning for Young Aspiring Minds' (SWAYAM), a software platform for launch of MOOCs and MHRD has assigned the work to 'National Coordinators' for preparation of Online Course material from School class 9 to Post Graduation levels, in all disciplines.

(c) Yes Sir. The Ministry is promoting the idea to conduct online classroom lectures for the benefit of more students in the country.

(d) The Government is fully committed to support the Indian MOOCs in the country, in terms of preparing SWAYAM Platform; commissioning the preparation of Online Courses; providing financial support on preparation and launch of MOOCs; providing the Data Centers, suitable Cloud Network, Content Delivery Network; issuing MOOCs Guidelines; involving Regulators in formulating the Credit Framework for seamless integration of conventional education with MOOCs etc.

Validity status of foreign degrees

1494. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is considering to bring comprehensive list of foreign degrees and its validity status for the benefit of students; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and by when it will be brought in public domain?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, the Association of Indian Universities

(AIU) accords Equivalence to such foreign degrees which: (i) are awarded by the foreign universities which are approved/recognized/accredited in its own country; (ii) are pursued by a student as a full time regular student on the campus of the university of its origin or on the duly approved offshore campus of the University; (iii) the minimum prescribed duration of the programme of the studies is at least the same as applicable in case of Indian Universities; and (iv) the minimum eligibility requirements for admission in the programme of studies is at least the same as applicable in case of Indian Universities.”

Seminar of Education Ministers of Asia region in Visakhapatnam

1495. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Seminar/Meeting of Human Resource Development/Education Ministers seminar/meeting of Asia region will be held in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh 2017;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the arrangements made so far; and

(c) the funds sanctioned/to be sanctioned/spent so far?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (C) Do not arise.

Huge expenditure for hospitality of NAAC in Jamia University

†1496. SHRIMATI KANAK LATA SINGH:

SHRI VISHAMBHAR PRASAD NISHAD:

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

(a) whether Jamia Millia University has shown a huge expense incurred on welcoming the representatives of the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) in the year 2015;

(b) the item-wise details of amount spent on the representatives of the National Assessment and Accreditation Council; and

(c) whether similarly apprehension is also being raised about bungling of money spent on salary and other items in the name of research on Maulana Azad Chair and M K Gandhi Chair between the year 2013 and 2014?

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.