| Year | Budget Allocation MHRD (₹ in crore) | Expenditure MHRD (₹ in crore) | % of Public Expenditure on Education to GDP (Source: National Account Statistics, CSO, MoS and PI) |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2014-15 | 82771.10 | 68891.58 | 4.35 |
| 2015-16 | 69074.76 | 67342.16 | 4.56 |
| 2016-17 | 72394.00 | 71923.38 | Not available |

Allocation of funds for education is made by the Government keeping in view inter-se priority of other sectors of the economy. However, with the devolution of more funds to the States as recommended by the 14th Finance Commission, States have been advised to prioritize allocating of funds to Education sector.

(b) and (c) The Higher Education Financing Agency (HEFA) is already set up as a Section 8 company under the Companies Act, 2013 and is functional since 31-5-2017. Government of India has released ₹ 250 Crore as equity and Canara Bank has released ₹ 50 Crore. Using this equity and the yearly escrow by institutions, HEFA has sanctioned 'in-principle' loan projects costing ₹ 1992 Crore in 6 Higher Educational institutions (HEIs) in their Board meeting held on 29-11-2017. As per the HEFA scheme, the interest on loan would be provided as Government grant.

### Engineering Degrees through Distance Learning

738. DR. KANWAR DEEP SINGH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some open universities are/were awarding engineering degrees through distance learning;

(b) if so, whether it was permissible;

(c) if not, which regulatory body, if any was there to prevent this;

(d) whether any responsibility has been fixed; and

(e) the action taken against such universities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SATYA PAL SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir. All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) is the regulatory authority to deal with the technical education in the country. AICTE as its policy

has never approved imparting of technical education (B.E./B.Tech degrees) through Open and Distance Learning (ODL) mode.

(c) The-then Distance Education Council (DEC) of Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU), All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) and University Grants Commission (UGC).

(d) and (e) No, Sir.

### Impact of introducing Bio-Metric Attendance

739. DR. VINAY P. SAHASRABUDDHE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of new efforts made by Government to promote and implement better work culture in the administration of Central Government Departments during the last three years;

(b) the details regarding overall impact of biometric attendance registration system after its introduction, so far; and

(c) whether Government has introduced any new training programmes aimed at enhancing the motivation levels of the Central Government officials and employees, in general?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (DR. JITENDRA SINGH): (a) Government makes continuous efforts aiming at better work culture in the administration of Central Government Departments and to make administrative systems efficient, transparent and accountable. Government has introduced a number of information technology based initiatives in last three years for better work culture, monitoring and effective delivery of services in an accountable and transparent way. Some of the major initiatives introduced across the Central Government Departments include e-Office, e-Samiksha, Legal Information Management Based System (LIMBS), Direct Benefit Transfer, Government e-Marketplace (GeM), Aadhaar enabled Biometric Attendance System (AEBAS), etc.

(b) Bio-Metric attendance system is an enabling platform which helps Ministries/ Departments in monitoring of attendance during office hours, late attendance, etc. Centralized information on its impact is not required to be maintained.

(c) The Government is continuously making efforts to develop a professional, impartial, efficient and motivated civil service that is responsive to the needs of the citizens. Towards this, new training programmes have been added under Domestic