

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3083
TO BE ANSWERED ON 30.03.2022

Reforms in education system

3083. # SHRI BRIJLAL:

Will the Minister of Education be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has prepared any draft to make notable changes in the rules related to online and open education and to expand the coverage of higher education and to make it accessible for the students living in farthest areas of the country to reform the education system in the country;
- (b) if so, the salient features thereof; and
- (c) whether Government also proposes to set up any digital university, if so, by when the same is likely to be set up and the salient features thereof?

ANSWER
MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
(DR. SUBHAS SARKAR)

(a)&(b) University Grants Commission has notified regulations for offering full-fledged online and open distance learning programme by the Higher Educational Institutions (HEIs). These regulations, inter-alia, include eligibility conditions, recognition process for offering online programmes, maintenance of infrastructural, academic and other quality standards by HEIs. It prohibits franchise arrangement with private sector and the ownership of offering online programmes shall be that of HEIs only. The details may be accessed at <https://www.ugc.ac.in/pdfnews/221580.pdf>.

Further, based on the recommendations of the Expert Committee, UGC has proposed modifications in ODL and Online Programme Regulations. It was uploaded on UGC website at <https://deb.ugc.ac.in/> for seeking comments/suggestions from stakeholders, last date for which was 15th March, 2022.

(c) Government of India in its Budget 2022-23 has announced establishment of Digital University, to provide access to students across the country, for world-class quality universal education with personalized learning experience at their doorsteps in different Indian languages and ICT formats.
