GOVERNMENT OF INDIA MINISTRY OF EDUCATION DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION

RAJYA SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 662 ANSWERED ON 26.07.2023

Policy to Regulate EdTech Platforms

662. DR. FAUZIA KHAN:

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that there has been no regulation of EdTech platforms by Government;
- (b) whether there is any data concerning exploitation of students by EdTech platforms, if so, State-wise details for the last five years;
- (c) whether there is any list of EdTech companies which are providing loan-based courses to the students, State-wise especially for Maharashtra; and
- (d) the common policy on EdTech platforms in the country, details of the same?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (d) Companies/agencies running Ed-tech platforms in the country are not registered with the Ministry of Education.

In order to safeguard the student interest, the Government has issued advisory which includes do's and don'ts for the stakeholders. It has also reiterated legal provisions for e-commerce firms for information to citizens who are consumers of ed-tech services. The details may be seen at https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1784582

University Grants Commission (UGC) has notified regulations for offering full-fledged online 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 arrangements with private sector and the ownership of offering online programmes shall be that of HEIs only.

UGC and All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) have also issued public notices advising the students to check the recognition/entitlement status of the programme on official website before enrolling for any course. The notice may be seen at https://deb.ugc.ac.in/pdf/UGC_Public_Notice_16-01-2022.pdf.

Further, in line with the National Education Policy 2020, National Educational Technology Forum (NETF) Cell has been established at AICTE as a platform for free exchange of ideas on the use of technology to enhance learning, assessment, planning, administration and so on, both for School and Higher Education.
