

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION

RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 202
ANSWERED ON 19.03.2025

Distance Education

202 **Shri Bhubaneswar Kalita:**

Will the Minister of **EDUCATION** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that for starting an online Degree and Post Graduate Degree, approval of UGC and Distance Education Bureau is required;
- (b) if so, the number of Universities approved till now by UGC and Distance Education Bureau in the country;
- (c) whether there is any University that got approval to run online Degree and Post Graduate Degree courses in Northern Eastern Region (NER) States; and
- (d) if so, State-wise details thereof?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF EDUCATION
(SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN)**

(a) to (d): A Statement is laid on the table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (A) to (D) IN RESPECT OF RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 202 ANSWERED ON 19.03.2025 REGARDING “DISTANCE EDUCATION” ASKED BY SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA, HON’BLE MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT

(a) to (d): The University Grants Commission (UGC) has notified the University Grants Commission (Open and Distance Learning Programmes and Online Programmes) Regulations, 2020 on 04.09.2020, with subsequent amendments notified on 01.07.2021, 18.07.2022 and 02.05.2024. As per the regulations, Higher Educational Institutions (HEIs) having National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) score 3.26 and above or having rank in Top-100 in University category of National Institutional Ranking Framework, at least twice in three preceding cycles (at the time of application), shall be permitted to start full-fledged Online programmes without prior approval of the UGC. The other HEIs are required to apply for offering programmes through the Online mode, if they fulfill the following conditions, namely:

- (i) Existence for at least three years and
- (ii) accredited by the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) with minimum score of 3.01 on a 4-point scale
or
NIRF rank in top-100 in University category for at least once in last two preceding cycles.

So far, Ninety Nine (99) HEIs can offer online programmes.

The HEIs from North Eastern Region can offer online programmes are as under:

- (i) Mizoram University, Mizoram
- (ii) Sikkim Manipal University, Sikkim
- (iii) Shri Ramasamy Memorial University, Sikkim
