

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 407
TO BE ANSWERED ON 05.02.2018**

Distance Learning Engineering Course

†407. SHRI PANKAJ CHAUDHARY:

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

- (a) whether engineering degrees of distance learning course issued by the deemed universities since 2001 have been cancelled by the Supreme Court;
- (b) if so, the number of students of these universities who have obtained degrees between 2001 and 2017-18, affected from this decision;
- (c) whether the Government is likely to take action against the people responsible for running distance learning course through deemed universities;
- (d) if so, whether the Government proposes to formulate any action plan to restrain all deemed universities conducting fake courses; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER
MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
(DR. SATYA PAL SINGH)**

(a): The Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in its Judgment Order dated 03.11.2017 in Civil Appeal No. in Civil Appeal Nos. 17869-17870/2017 has suspended all the degrees in Engineering awarded by four Deemed to be Universities namely Institute of Advanced Studies in Education (IASE), Sardarshahr, Rajasthan; Janardan Rai Nagar Rajasthan Vidyapeeth (JRNRV), Udaipur, Rajasthan; Vinayaka Mission's Research Foundation (NMRF), Salem, Tamil Nadu; and Allahabad Agricultural Institute (AAI), Allahabad, Uttar Pradesh (now known as Sam Higginbottom Institute of Agriculture, Technology & Sciences) during the Academic Sessions 2001-2005. The Court directed the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) to devise the modalities to conduct an appropriate test / tests for those students who were admitted in these Institutions during the Academic Sessions 2001-2005. The options may be given to the concerned students for appearing in the test. The students will be given two opportunities to qualify the Test.

Further, Hon'ble Court vide its judgment dated 22.01.2018 held that all such candidates, who wish to appear at the Test to be conducted by AICTE in May-June 2018, can retain the degrees in question and all the advantages flowing there from till one month after the declaration of the result of such test or till 31.07.2018 whichever is earlier. If the candidates pass in such first attempt, they would be entitled to retain all the advantages. But if they fail or choose not to appear, the directions in the judgment shall apply, in that the degrees and all advantages shall stand suspended and withdrawn. They will undoubtedly be entitled to appear on the second occasion in terms of the judgment but this exception shall not apply for such second attempt. However, the degrees obtained from these Deemed to be Universities after the Academic Sessions 2001-2005 have been cancelled.

(b): No such data is maintained by the Central Government.

(C): Pursuant to the direction of Hon'ble Court, Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has been requested by this Ministry to carry out thorough investigation against the concerned Institutions / officials so that appropriate action may be taken against the Institutions / Officials concerned.

(d) & (e): As per direction of the Hon'ble Court, this Ministry has constituted a Committee to examine the entire issues of distance education imparted by Higher Educational Institutions especially pertaining to technical education and its allied fields and also to suggest a road map for strengthening and setting up of oversight and regulatory mechanism for the above issues. The Committee has also been asked to suggest oversight mechanism to regulate the Deemed to be Universities.
