

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT  
DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION  
LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1458  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 01.07.2019

**Degree Granted by Open Universities**

1458. SHRI VINAYAK RAUT:  
DR. PRITAM GOPINATHRAO MUNDE:  
DR. SHRIKANT EKNATH SHINDE:  
SHRI KUNWAR PUSHPENDRA SINGH CHANDEL:  
SHRI SRIRANGA APPA BARNE:

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

- (a) whether a graduation, a Master, Ph. D or M.Phil. degree which is granted by an open university either through distance mode of education programme or through any informal education programme is equivalent to such degrees granted to a candidate by Formal Conventional Recognised Universities;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor;
- (d) whether there is a need to improve the credibility of the degree provided by open universities in the country; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof along with the scheme chalked out by the Government to improve the credibility of open universities?

**ANSWER**  
**MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT**  
**(SHRI RAMESH POKHRIYAL 'NISHANK')**

(a) to (c): Sir The University Grants Commission (UGC) from time to time issues Letters/Circulars/Public Notices regarding equivalence of degrees awarded by Open & Distance Learning (ODL) universities at par with conventional universities which are available on UGC's website [www.ugc.ac.in/deb](http://www.ugc.ac.in/deb). Accordingly, all degrees granted by open universities in line with the UGC (Open and Distance Learning Regulation 2017) are recognised degrees.

(d) & (e): The University Grants Commission (UGC) has notified UGC (Open and Distance Learning) Regulations, 2017 with a view to maintain the quality and standards in Open and Distance Learning mode of education in the Open Universities. Further, the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) has also formulated a Quality Assurance Framework for Open Universities. The "Manual for Self-Study Report for Open Universities" is available on NAAC's website [http://www.naac.gov.in/images/docs/manuals/ODL-Manual-13\\_06\\_2019.pdf](http://www.naac.gov.in/images/docs/manuals/ODL-Manual-13_06_2019.pdf). This provides the method for NAAC assessment of open universities. Government has also issued a gazette notification in 2018 wherein it has brought out that degrees for open universities are recognized for employment as long as they are within the ambit of regulators like UGC/AICTE wherever necessary. (copy attached)