

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1269
TO BE ANSWERED ON 10.02.2020
Distance Education

1269. DR. KALANIDHI VEERASWAMY:

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

- (a) the details of the number of courses being offered through distance education within the country including Universities;
- (b) whether the Government is planning to stop some of its course being offered through distance education across the country;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (d) the time by which these are likely to be stopped;
- (e) whether this move has been opposed by some of the Universities running within the country; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof along with the action taken by the Government in this regard?

ANSWER

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

(a): University Grants Commission (UGC) is the regulatory authority to deal with the Open and Distance Learning in Higher education system of the country and accordingly, notified UGC (Open and Distance Learning) Regulations, 2017. During the current academic year 2019-20, UGC has approved 1592 programmes mainly in the areas of Art, Science, Commerce, Management and Computer Applications, etc., in 128 Higher Educational Institutions (HEIs) to impart Open and Distance Education based on its various regulations on Open and Distance Learning Education. All these details are already available on UGC website at www.ugc.ac.in/deb.

(b), (c) & (d): The UGC (Open and Distance Learning) Regulations, 2017 do not permit to run the professional programmes through ODL mode by Open Universities unless the same are permitted by the respective Statutory Councils in their respective fields. Accordingly, based on the recommendations of some of such Statutory Councils, UGC has stopped some programmes at undergraduate and post graduate level in the field of Agriculture, Horticulture, Hospitality & Hotel Administration and Catering & Hotel Management, etc. The recognition for such courses withdrawn will be applicable from the next academic session with the instructions to the HEIs to provide support such as faculty, requisite learning materials and on time examinations, etc, to the students already admitted in these programmes till the completion of their degrees.

(e) & (f): UGC has received representations and appeals from some of the HEIs on the subject matter. However, the Commission heard their representations and disposed of the same as per UGC (Open and Distance Learning) Regulations, 2017.
