

No.F.9-3/2020-DL
Government of India
Ministry of Human Resource Development
Department of Higher Education
DL Division

Subject: Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. †3472 regarding Distance Learning through Digital Means asked by Shri Mitesh Rameshbhai Patel (Bakabhai) to be put up for answer on 16.03.2020--reg.

This relates to a Lok Sabha Unstarred question No. †3472 regarding Distance Learning through Digital Means asked by Shri Mitesh Rameshbhai Patel (Bakabhai) to be put up for answer on 16.03.2020. The printed version of the Question may kindly be seen at **Page.1/cor.** The text of the Question is reproduced below:

- (a) the steps being taken to introduce distance learning in hotel management and other courses through digital means; and
- (b) the opinions of the States and experts in this regard?

2. In this regard, it is mentioned that a similar question has already been answered in the Lok Sabha (Q. No. 226) on 03.02.2020 which may kindly be seen at **Page. 2/cor.** We may reply to the recent LS Q.No. 3472 on similar lines as reply already given in the Lok Sabha (Q No. 226) earlier. If approved, a draft reply is placed below for kind consideration and approval of Hon'ble HRM, please.

(B.K. Bhadri)
DEA (DL)

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3472
TO BE ANSWERED ON 16.03.2020

Distance Learning through Digital Means

†3472. SHRI MITESH RAMESHBHAI PATEL (BAKABHAI):

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

- (a) the steps being taken to introduce distance learning in hotel management and other courses through digital means; and
- (b) the opinions of the States and experts in this regard?

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

(a) & (b): 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. These regulations, *inter-alia*, under clause (p) of sub-Regulation (2) of Part-I states that

“Professional programmes” means a programme other than programmes in engineering, medicine, dental, pharmacy, nursing, architecture, physiotherapy and programmes not permitted to be offered in distance mode by any Statutory Councils or Regulatory Authorities to be conducted by the Higher Educational Institutions under Open and Distance Learning mode or Distance Education mode for the purpose of these regulations, if any, should be considered only if the same are approved by the respective Statutory Councils or Regulatory Authorities”

Further, AICTE based on the recommendations of its Expert Committee constituted on Technical Education through Open and Distance education mode *inter-alia* recommended that only those programmes which do not involve extensive practical course work shall be permissible through the distance education mode. Accordingly, AICTE as per its extant policy has not given recognition to the qualifications acquired through distance mode at Diploma, Bachelors and Masters Level in the field of Hotel Management and other Technical courses.
