

Distance education in Hotel Management

547. SHRI B. LINGAIAH YADAV: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the steps being taken to introduce distance education in Hotel Management and in other courses in digital mode; and

(b) the views of experts and the States in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI RAMESH POKHRIYAL 'NISHANK'): (a) and (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.

Feedback on the draft National Education Policy

548. SHRIMATI VIJILA SATHYANANTH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has received more than 77,000 letters on draft National Education Policy;

(b) whether it is also a fact that about 5 per cent of the feedback received so far has been found to be useful and will be taken into account; and