

- (iii) DIKSHA the nation's digital infrastructure for providing quality e-content for school education in states/UTs; and QR coded Energized Textbooks for all grades (one nation, one digital platform).
 - (iv) Study materials have been provided on an experimental basis for 12 channels for classes 1 to 12 on SWAYAM Prabha and actions are expedited to run these channels in a full-fledged manner.
 - (v) Extensive use of Radio, Community radio and CBSE Podcast- Shiksha Vani.
 - (vi) Special e-content for visually and hearing impaired developed on Digitally Accessible Information System (DAISY) and in sign language on NIOS website/ YouTube.
- (c) National Education Policy 2020 has provisions for digital education, infrastructure and creation of contents in multiple languages. The details can be accessed on [-https://www.mhrd.gov.in/sites/upload_Files/mhrd/files/NEP_Final_English_0.pdf](https://www.mhrd.gov.in/sites/upload_Files/mhrd/files/NEP_Final_English_0.pdf)

Steps taken by UGC to ensure compliance of rules

511. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR GUPTA: Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the University Grants Commission has drawn any plan to ensure that the minimum duration, nomenclature and qualification for degree programme under which they are enrolling is strictly as per its notification on specification of degree and its amendments; and

(b) the steps taken for listing the precautions needed to be taken by students before enrolling in Open and Domestic Learning (ODL) programmes?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION (SHRI RAMESH POKHRIYAL 'NISHANK'):

(a) The University Grants Commission (UGC) has informed that in exercise of the powers conferred by subsection (3) of Section 22 of The UGC Act, 1956, the UGC has issued the notification on Specification of Degrees in March 2014 and its amendments from time to time (https://www.ugc.ac.in/UGC_Regulations.aspx). These specifications prescribe the nomenclature, level, duration and entry qualification along with the guiding principles, for compliance by all the Higher Educational Institutions.

Further, *vide* its D.O. No. F. 21-13/2019 (CPP-II) dated 20th January, 2020, UGC has communicated to the Vice Chancellors of all Universities, to abide by the provisions of section 22 of the UGC Act and award only those degrees as specified by UGC.

(b) The UGC from time to time has issued various directions/instructions regarding precautions to be taken by students before enrolling for programmes offered under Open and Distance(ODL) and/or Online Learning mode. A public notice in this regard has been issued by UGC and the same can be accessed at https://www.ugc.ac.in/pdf/news/6981874_Public-Notice-DEB.pdf

Aims of NEP to address current educational challenges

512. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR GUPTA: Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the New National Education Policy (NEP) aims to address current educational challenges while envisioning to equip every child for future opportunities and challenges; and

(b) if so, what measures does Government propose to take which can help curb dropout rates in later years of schooling?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION (SHRI RAMESH POKHRIYAL 'NISHANK'):

(a) Yes Sir. The key overall thrust of the National Education Policy (NEP), 2020, as laid down in the fundamental principles that will guide both the education system at large, as well as the individual institutions within it, is emphasis on conceptual understanding, rather than rote learning and learning for exams. The focus is on children learning how to learn. It aims at not only cognitive development, but also building character and creating holistic and well-rounded individuals equipped with the key 21st century skills.

(b) NEP emphasizes to bring Out of School Children back to schools and to prevent children from dropping out by providing effective and sufficient infrastructure in the schools, regular trained teachers at each stage, safe and practical conveyances and/or hostels, alternative and innovative education centres and by achieving universal participation in school by carefully tracking students as well as their learning levels. Further, under Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Samagra Shiksha, financial assistance is provided to the States and UTs for various activities to reduce number of dropouts,