

## WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION  
DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION

RAJYA SABHA  
STARRED QUESTION NO. \*157  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 16.03.2022

**Ed-tech companies in the country**

\*157. SHRI BINOY VISWAM:

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has framed any rules, regulations and policies relating to the functioning of Educational-technology (Ed-tech) companies in the country;
- (b) the total number of complaints against Ed-tech companies and the reasons for the UGC to issue an advisory to parents against such companies;
- (c) whether Government has engaged any such Ed-tech companies to develop curriculum for students at the school and college level, if so, the details of the companies and the terms of their engagement; and
- (d) what safeguards are being taken to ensure quality of education in light of the UGC amendments to allow online degrees?

**ANSWER**  
**MINISTER OF EDUCATION**  
**(SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN)**

Part (a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the table of the House.

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**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. \*157 TO BE ANSWERED ON 16.03.2022 ASKED BY SHRI BINOY VISWAM, HON'BLE MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT REGARDING "ED-TECH COMPANIES IN THE COUNTRY".**

(a) to (d) The Education Technology (Ed-Tech) is an emerging area and the Government is watchful against any exploitative process adopted by Ed-Tech companies. Development of curricular based quality content and award of degree/diploma comes under the purview of Educational Institutions under overall supervision of regulatory bodies like NCERT/SCERT, NIOS, UGC, AICTE etc. For delivery of the content in a creative and cost effective way, Ed-Tech companies are involved under the oversight of regulatory bodies.

The Ministry of Education has issued advisory regarding taking precautions against high claims made by Ed-Tech companies while opting for courses, tutorials, coaching etc. in an online mode. Further, UGC and AICTE have also notified regulations for offering full-fledged online programme by the Higher Educational Institutions (HEIs). These regulations, inter-alia, include eligibility conditions, recognition process for offering online programmes, maintenance of infrastructural, academic and other quality standards by HEIs. It prohibits franchise arrangement with private sector and the ownership of offering online programmes shall be that of HEIs only.

Complaints as and when received are examined and action taken under above regulations.

NIOS has started a Virtual Open School on Pilot basis in August, 2021. AICTE is also implementing National Educational Alliance for Technology (NEAT) as a Public-Private partnership initiative with the Education Technology (Ed-Tech) companies in India; to list their courses or other supplemental learning products on NEAT Portal. Ed-tech companies operating in the areas such as Laboratory tools/AI-based simulation Tool (Like CAD, CAM etc.), coding skills and testing, Emerging Technology (5G, AI, ML, and drones etc.), industry projects and Entrepreneurship, may offer learning products to help enhance youth employability through NEAT portal. 25% of the coupons are provisioned for students of economically and socially weaker sections across the country, free of cost by the Ed-Tech companies.

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