### GOVERNMENT OF INDIA MINISTRY OF EDUCATION DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION

# LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 40 ANSWERED ON 03.02.2025

#### **Registered Ed-Tech Companies**

#### 40. SHRI KHALILUR RAHAMAN:

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

- (a) the revenue generated from registered Ed-Tech companies in the country from 2019 onwards till date:
- (b) whether the Government intends to introduce a specialized policy framework for the regulation of the Ed-Tech sector in the country;
- (c) if so, the details thereof including the estimated timeline for the release of this policy and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (d) whether co-ordination is also being done with other Ministries to ensure a comprehensive policy that addresses concerns of predatory marketing, data security, consumer protection etc.; and
- (e) if so, the details of the Ministries/Departments being consulted and if not, the reasons therefor?

#### **ANSWER**

## MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION (DR. SUKANTA MAJUMDAR)

(a) to (e) Ed-tech companies in the country are not registered with Ministry of Education.

The Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution notified Consumer Protection (E-Commerce) Rules, 2020 to protect the interest of the consumer and regulate e-commerce entity including EdTech companies. These rules aims to prevent untoward liability and establish a dedicated mechanism to check for compliance of the law. The details may be seen at <a href="https://consumeraffairs.nic.in/sites/default/files/E%20commerce%20rules.pdf">https://consumeraffairs.nic.in/sites/default/files/E%20commerce%20rules.pdf</a>

To ensure safeguard the interest of learners/students, Ministry of Education has also issued detail advisory for all stakeholders including students with respect to online content being offered by host of EdTech companies. The advisory reiterated that EdTech companies, which may be considered e-commerce entities, have to comply with Consumer Protection (E-Commerce) Rules, 2020. The

advisory further details many safeguards including do's and don'ts for various stakeholders in education ecosystem when opting for products or services from EdTech companies. The details may be seen at <a href="https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1784582">https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1784582</a>.

University Grants Commission (UGC) has further 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 vests the authority of offering online programmes solely in HEIs. The details may be seen at <a href="https://www.ugc.ac.in/pdfnews/221580.pdf">https://www.ugc.ac.in/pdfnews/221580.pdf</a>.

In addition, UGC has also issued two public notices on 16th January 2022 and 12th December 2023 advising the students to check recognition/entitlement status of programme on official website before enrolling any course..

\*\*\*\*