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SENATE OF PAKISTAN



REPORT OF THE SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON
FEDERAL EDUCATION, PROFESSIONAL TRAINING, NATIONAL HERITAGE
AND CULTURE
ON
"THE STARRED QUESTION NO. 82 REGARDING THE SYSTEM DEVISED BY
HIGHER EDUCATION COMMISSION FOR DISTANCE LEARNING
PROGRAMMES FOR UNIVERSITIES INDICATING THE NUMBER AND NAME OF
UNIVERSITIES THAT HAVE BEEN ALLOWED BY THE HEC FOR DISTANCE
LEARNING PROGRAMMES, RAISED BY SENATOR MUSHTAQ AHMED IN THE
SENATE SITTING HELD ON 21st JANUARY, 2022

REPORT NO. 05 OF 2022

PRESENTED BY:
SENATOR IRFAN-UL-HAQ SIDDIQUI
CHAIRMAN COMMITTEE

SENATE SECRETARIAT

REPORT ON STARRED QUESTION NO. 82 REGARDING THE SYSTEM DEvised BY HIGHER EDUCATION COMMISSION FOR DISTANCE LEARNING PROGRAMMES FOR UNIVERSITIES INDICATING THE NUMBER AND NAME OF UNIVERSITIES THAT HAVE BEEN ALLOWED BY THE HEC FOR DISTANCE LEARNING PROGRAMMES, RAISED BY SENATOR MUSHTAQ AHMED IN THE SENATE SITTING HELD ON 21ST JANUARY, 2022

I, Senator Irfan-ul-Haq Siddiqui, Chairman Standing Committee on Federal Education, Professional Training, National Heritage and Culture, have the honour to present, on behalf of the Committee, this report on the Starred Question No. 82 regarding the system devised by Higher Education Commission for Distance Learning Programmes for Universities indicating the number and name of universities that have been allowed by the HEC for Distance Learning Programmes, raised by Senator Mushtaq Ahmed in the Senate sitting held on 21st January, 2022:..

2. The composition of the Committee is as under:

I.	Senator Irfan-ul-Haq Siddiqui	Chairman
II.	Senator Prof. Dr. Mehr Taj Roghani	Member
III.	Senator Ejaz Ahmad Chaudhary	Member
IV.	Senator Fawzia Arshad	Member
V.	Senator Falak Naz	Member
VI.	Senator Jam Mahtab Hussain Dahar	Member
VII.	Senator Engr. Rukhsana Zuberi	Member
VIII.	Senator Dr. Sikandar Mandhro	Member
IX.	Senator Rana Maqbool Ahmad	Member
X.	Senator Mushtaq Ahmad Khan	Mover/Member
XI.	Senator Molvi Faiz Muhammad	Member
XII.	Senator Ahmed Khan	Member
XIII.	Minister for Federal Education & Professional Training	Ex-Officio Member



3. The Committee took up the matter in its meetings held on 15th March, 2022, attended by the following:

I.	Senator Irfan-ul-Haq Siddiqui	Chairman
II.	Senator Prof. Dr. Mehr Taj Roghani	Member
III.	Senator Fawzia Arshad	Member
IV.	Senator Falak Naz	Member
V.	Senator Jam Mahtab Hussain Dahar	Member
VI.	Senator Engr. Rukhsana Zuberi	Member
VII.	Senator Rana Maqbool Ahmad	Member
VIII.	Senator Mushtaq Ahmad Khan	Mover/Member
IX.	Senator Molvi Faiz Muhammad	Member

4. During the course of discussions, the Committee deliberated upon the matter in detail and sought views of the Mover and representatives from the Higher Education Commission. The summary of the proceedings of the meetings on the subject matter is provided below.

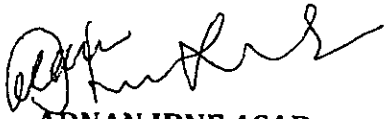
5. The Mover of the agenda item Senator Mushtaq Ahmed informed the Committee that HEC had authorized five universities to impart distance education and learning programmes. However, in 2018, distance learning programmes were stopped. The programme remained suspended for three years resulting in loss of precious time and energy of students. He lamented that three years were wasted by HEC for policy making which could have been avoided by early responsive action by the HEC. Senator Rukhsana Zuberi opined that it is disappointing that universities need to seek approval of HEC for imparting distance learning programmes.

6. The Executive Director, HEC briefed the Committee that approval for imparting online and distance learning programmes are required from HEC to ensure that universities are providing quality education and maintaining standards as set out by the HEC for such programmes. It was informed that admissions in such programmes were stopped in 2018 due to violations in terms of offering unapproved programmes and not maintaining minimum standards. The Committee was further informed that HEC has provided PKR 27 million to each public sector university in the last 18 months for Online Distance Learning programme.

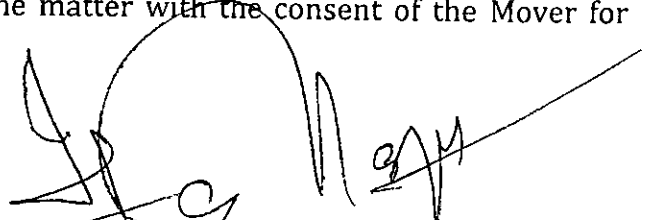


7. The Committee recommended the HEC to ensure that while devising a policy or implementing a decision, the interests of students should be given paramount importance in order to ensure that their time, energy and resources are not wasted.

8. The Committee disposed off the matter with the consent of the Mover for onward report to the House.



ADNAN IBNE ASAD
Secretary Committee



SENATOR IRFAN UL HAQ SIDDIQUI
Chairman Committee