

Manish Jain, IAS
Principal Secretary



Department of Higher Education
Government of West Bengal

D.O. NO. 08 - Pr. Secy. - HED/2020

Dt. 18.04.2020

Sub: Issues related to Examinations and Academic Calendar

Dear Prof Jain,

Kindly refer to your D.O. letter no F.1-1/2020(Secy) dated 17/04/2020 on the subject. In view of the prevailing situation on the spread of Novel Corona virus (COVID - 19) and the orders/guidelines issued by Ministry of Home Affairs vide no 40-3/2020-DM-I(A) dated 24-03-2020 and dated 15/04/2020 read with subsequent orders issued from time to time and as a matter of abundant precaution to check its spread in the State of West Bengal, the State Government has decided to close all Educational Institutes in the State till 10th June. Needless to mention that our State Government has taken several steps e.g. online classes through secured online platforms, live classes on TV channels etc to ensure alternate venues for study to the students of the State. We have gone through your above mentioned D.O. letter and as desired by Hon'ble Education Minister, Government of West Bengal, I would like to bring following points for your kind consideration.

- 1) As education is in the concurrent list of the Constitution of India, I would suggest that the report of the Expert Committee (constituted by the UGC to deliberate on the issues related to examination and academic calendar) may be sent to the all State Governments, for suitable feedback within stipulated time period, before any decision is taken on the report.
- 2) The State Governments should be given suitable time for consultation with different Stakeholders and discussion at the appropriate level in the Government, for sending their views on the report.
- 3) It may be appreciated that any non- consultation with the State Governments before taking any decision on the report, will be against the spirit of the federal structure enshrined in the constitution.

I would request you to consider above and take necessary action accordingly.

With regards,

Yours Sincerely

(Manish Jain)

To: Prof. Rajnish Jain,
Secretary, University Grants Commission
Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg, New Delhi- 110002