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Title: Regarding restrictions on webinars conducted by educational institutions - laid.

DR. D. RAVIKUMAR (VILUPPURAM): I am given to understand that the Union government has issued fresh restrictions on webinars conducted by educational institutions. Professors and administrators will now have to get prior approval from the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) if they want to hold online international conferences or seminars that are centred around issues relating to the security of the Indian state or which are “clearly related to India’s internal matters”. Any matter - gender, caste, environment, health - can be termed as internal matter of our country. This is a clear case of intrusion in academic freedom. Requiring government approval for foreign participants is akin to creating a de facto visa system for online participation – a hurdle no country has so far sought to subject its universities to. So, I earnestly request the Government withdraw the above order.