

The Indian Express.

21/09/2019.

AUT seeks concessions for on-duty teachers

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Coimbatore

ASSOCIATION of University Teachers (AUT) appealed to the Higher Education department to approve shortened UGC mandated orientation and refresher courses and direct Directorate of Collegiate Education to sanction OD to teachers to participate in these courses.

In a letter to the Principal Secretary for Higher Education Mangat Ram Sharma, AUT general secretary MS Bala Murugan drew the attention of the department to the plight of teachers who are denied on duty to attend the UGC mandated orientation or refresher courses.

The amended UGC Guidelines-2019

which mandate the teachers to participate in the orientation or refresher courses, conducted by the Human Resource Centers (HRC), shortened the duration of the courses to 18 days (108 hours) and 12 days (72 hours) respectively. Earlier, the duration was 28 and 21 days. As the UGC makes the participation of all the teachers in such courses mandatory to improve professional development, teachers have been permitted to avail on duty for the duration, Bala Murugan said in the letter. On the contrary, the Regional Joint Director (P&D), Chennai, by his proceedings dated May 29 denied on duty to a teacher to attend to the 14 days refresher course for want of approval from the department of higher educa-

tion. On the basis of this order, the RJDs of eight regions, - Chennai, Vellore, Coimbatore, Trichy, Tanjore, Dharmapuri, Madurai and Tirunelveli, denies on duty to teachers, leaving them in lurch by suggestion to apply for the eligible leave, he added.

AUT urged the DCE and the department of higher education to raise up to the occasion so as to adhere to the mandated UGC Guidelines in the interest of higher education. In the light of the above, the AUT appeals to the department of higher education to immediately issue orders to approve the shortened UGC mandated courses and direct the DCE to sanction OD to teachers for their participation in these courses without any hurdles, he urged.