

## **Salient Features of the Report of the Anandkrishnan Committee, submitted to the MHRD, Govt. of India in February, 2006**

### **GIST**

In ranking the seven schools most suitable for conversion to Institute of National Importance, the Expert Committee formed by the MHRD, Govt. of India placed Bengal Engineering and Science University (BESU), Shibpur, erstwhile, Bengal Engineering College, Howrah at the top of the list. In a report submitted to the MHRD in February 2006, the Expert Committee comprising of Prof. M. Anandkrishnan as Convener, Prof. D.V. Singh and Prof. Amitabha Ghosh as members, proposed the establishment of a new system of Institutes of National Importance (INI) through an Act of the Parliament of India. They suggested these INIs be called Indian Institute of Engineering Science and Technology (IEST) and recommended five institutions with BESU at the No. 1 position for transformation on the assumption that there will be no difficulties in reaching agreements among all concerned regarding the proposed conceptual framework of IEST.

### **SUMMARY**

Earlier, the Committee of Experts constituted by the MHRD, Govt. of India in November, 2003, under the Chairmanship of Prof. S.K. Joshi "to identify Promising Academic Institutions to be upgraded into Indian Institute of Technology", identified short-listed BESU as was one of the seven institutions most suitable for conversion.

As a follow-up to the report of the S.K. Joshi Committee submitted in 2005, the MHRD invited the seven short-listed institutions to submit their Vision Documents for "Upgradation to the level of IITs", and a three member Expert Committee was appointed by the MHRD in September, 2005 to undertake an in-depth evaluation of the identified institutions and suggest the Plan of Action for their upgradation to the level of IITs, with MHRD support right from the commencement of the 11<sup>th</sup> five-year Plan period (April, 2007).

The Expert Committee examined the Vision Documents submitted by the institutions, visited the institutions, gathered specific data and information and also held discussions with different groups of their community - students, faculty, administration, alumni etc.

Based on the analysis of information available, the Expert Committee submitted its report to the MHRD on 13<sup>th</sup> February, 2006, containing a set of recommendations along with suggestions for implementation.

The Committee was of the view that this exercise was not for conversion of the identified institutions into IITs but to assess their potential to be transformed into high level technological Institutes of National Importance, to be at par with the IITs – with respect to the curricular framework and flexibility; the composition of the faculty members, their qualifications and achievement profiles; an all-India character of the student population and their admission process; the academic and physical infrastructure; the governance structure; and the sources of finance after transformation from their present status.

For this purpose, the committee formulated a conceptual model of a high level technological Institute of National Importance. The features of this model are that it is an Institute of National Importance (INI) formed by an Act of Parliament of India with a nomenclature, Indian Institute of Engineering Science and Technology (IEST). All IESTs will together constitute a new system of institutions in technical education in the country, developed by transforming promising technical institutions. The proposed governance system of the IESTs

will be comparable to that of the IITs, including Common Council for all IESTs; and the primary source of financial support will be the MHRD.

The IESTs, as proposed by the Anandkrishnan Committee, will be devoted to offering programmes leading to 5-year integrated dual degrees (B.Tech- M.Tech); 2-year M.Tech.; 5-year integrated M.Sc.; 2-year Masters' degree programmes in engineering, architecture science and management; and will have a substantially large proportion of doctoral candidates. A distinct feature of the IESTs is that they will have specific provisions for international students and faculty. There will be some features in terms of academic and research facilities that will be more or less of common standard.

The comparative characteristics of each institution were analyzed in terms of their attributes in academic achievements, infrastructure and governance system. Based on the analysis, the Expert Committee was of the view that five institutions have the potential for transformation into IESTs. BESU ranked first in the list by securing highest total score among the five potential institutions.


On transformation, the IESTs will require substantially higher level of funding than what is currently available as well as for further development and growth. The grants available to the identified institutions from the State Governments and the UGC will not be sufficient to sustain them as Institutes of National Importance. The Expert Committee proposed the necessary financial provisions in the 11<sup>th</sup> Plan for the initial stage of the implementation process, with a clear policy and commitment for continued support in subsequent Plan periods.

This process of transformation may be expedited through joint meetings between the Central and concerned State authorities, to obtain the necessary concurrence for preparation of a Parliamentary Bill for declaring the institutions as INI, under the name of Indian Institute of Engineering Science and Technology (IEST)

In order to meet the basic objectives of transformation related to strengthening the key attributes of the institutions, the financial outlay for the 11<sup>th</sup> Plan Period (2007-12) required to fulfill the common and specific goals of BESU for transformations to IEST has been estimated at **Rs. 519.55 Cr.** including a **Recurring Annual Grant of Rs. 47.31 Cr.**

It is recognized that several prerequisites need to be fulfilled before the formation of IESTs. A set of tasks and an indicative time frame as suggested by the Expert Committee requires immediate actions from the Central and State Authorities for the functioning of the IESTs from the commencement of the 11<sup>th</sup> Five-year plan, i.e. April, 2007.

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