

Besu pulls up socks, JU blasé

Statesman News Service

KOLKATA, March 13. — In the aftermath of the Union ministry of human resources development's denying IIT or Institute of National Importance status to Bengal Engineering and Science University, Shibpur and Jadavpur University, faculty of Besu are on the warpath while their counterparts in JU appear blasé.

Bengal Engineering and Science University teachers have become fiercely active, from holding executive council meetings to sending a series of deputation to officials. The campus is swamped with protest posters.

It's an entirely different picture at Jadavpur University. "Teachers are not involved in this issue. We were deliberately kept out of every decision. The board of studies and acade-

mic council are totally blank on the development. Whatever we know is from the newspapers," said Prof Tarun Nashkar, teacher at Mechanical Engineering department.

Besu wants to bring in this upgradation before 24 November, when the university will complete 150 years. Dissatisfied at the outcome of the meeting held at Delhi with MHRD, the teachers, students and alumni have repeatedly approached the state government to re-work the issue. The faculty members will wear protest badges until the state takes a "constructive" approach. Demonstrations have already begun on the university campus and the teachers might even go to the Writers' Buildings to meet the chief minister, said Mr Manas Hira, secretary of Bengal Engineering and Science University Teachers Association.