

Status quo prevails in Besu and JU

Statesman News Service

KOLKATA, Feb. 23. — Status quo will prevail in both Jadavpur University and Bengal Engineering and Science University with the Union Ministry of Human Resources Development deciding against granting these institutions either IIT status or declaring them Institutions of National Importance.

At a meeting with the MHRD, state government and universities held in Delhi today it was decided that any kind of change in the process would be incorporated only in the XIth Plan.

For the time being, a short-term programme will be run in the universities. MHRD has asked the varsities to identify a thrust area amongst the areas the varsities had mentioned earlier.

Work for this section has to be started and UGC will fund it.

Talks over the issue of the institution's name being changed, syllabus being framed by individual varsities and the examination process being conducted by the centre, were dumped at the meeting.

Prof NR Banerjea, vice-chancellor of Besu, said a programme plan for the next one year would be drawn up by the varsity and he would submit it in the first week of March.

"Joint entrance examination will be in place but we have been asked to take candidates from all over India, which we have already done," said Prof Banerjea.

The status of IIT or Institution of National Importance depends on the concurrence of both the state and Central governments.