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Minutes of the 28th meeting of the Council
of IITs held on March 7, 1989.

The 28th meeting of the Council of IITs was held on March 7, 1989, in room No.127-C, Shastri Bhavan, New Delhi. The meeting was held under the Chairmanship of Minister of State (Education & Culture) as the Minister of Human Resource Development had to attend to some urgent Parliament work. The following were present:

1. Shri L.P. Shahi ... In Chair.
2. Prof. Yash Pal
3. Prof. P.N. Srivastava
4. Dr. H.N. Sethna
5. Dr. D.V. Kapur
6. Shri A.L. Mudaliar
7. Shri Anil Bordia
8. Dr. V.R. Gowariker
9. Prof. Ashoka Chandra
10. Shri L.S. Narayanan
11. Dr. M. Santappa
12. Prof. B. Nag
13. Prof. A.K. Mallik
14. Prof. L.S. Srinath
15. Prof. K.L. Chopra
16. Prof. N.C. Nigam
17. Shri I.B. Sangal ... Secretary

The following members conveyed their inability to attend/could not attend the meeting:

1. Shri Williamson A. Sangma
2. Shri Ran Ratan Ram
3. Shri Ajit P.K. Jogi
4. Shri R.H. Mody
5. Dr. A.S. Ganguly
6. Dr. Raja Ramanna
7. Prof. G.N.S. Rao
8. Dr. A.P. Mitra

...2/-

9. Shri V. Krishnamurthy
10. Dr. V.S. Arunachalam
11. Shri Ajit Singh

The following officers of the Ministry attended the meeting as special invitees:

1. Dr. K. Gopalan, Joint Educational Adviser(Tech.)
2. Prof. S.K. Srivastava, Joint Educational Adviser (Tech.)
3. Shri M.L. Gilautra, Assistant Educational Adviser (Tech.)

Before taking up the agenda for consideration, the Chairman welcomed everybody present at the meeting. He extended a special welcome to the new members S/Shri Williamson A. Sangma, Ram Ratan Ram and Prof. N.C. Nigam. The Chairman also placed on record his appreciation for the valuable contributions made by the outgoing members S/Shri Narayan Ch. Ghoubey, Partap Bhanu Sharma and Prof. N.M. Swani.

At the outset Dr. H.N. Sethna raised a point saying that he received the agenda papers only just then. Some other members also mentioned about the late receipt of agenda papers. The Chairman desired that in future agenda papers should be sent 15 days in advance.

Item No.1: TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE 27TH MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON 2ND MARCH 1988

Dr. D.V. Kapur said that the minutes with regard to Item No.27.6.5 had not been recorded properly. He was of the view that the note on the role of the IIT Council vis-a-vis the AICTE was to be prepared by the Ministry of Human Resource Development and not by the Committee of IIT Directors. Prof. Chopra said that his Chairman Shri Russi Mody had written a letter to Minister of Human Resource Development(HRM) on this matter. The condition was explained by Prof. Ashoka Chandra as well as by Shri Sangal. The Chairman

perused the letter received from Shri Mody and the reply sent by HRM. After some discussion, it was decided that the Committee of Directors of IITs should submit the note on the subject as early as possible and thereafter the matter should be placed before the Council alongwith the observations of the Secretariat so that a final view in this regard can be taken. If considered necessary an early meeting of the Council may be called for this purpose. The minutes were confirmed.

Item No.2: TO REPORT THE ACTION TAKEN ON THE MINUTES OF THE 27TH MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON 2ND MARCH 1988.

Referring to Item No. 27.2(ii), Prof. Ashoka Chandra informed the Council about the action taken by the Government with regard to the payment of over-head charges by sponsoring agencies. Dr. Gowariker informed the Council that his Department was in agreement with such a proposal and that it had taken up the matter with the Ministry of Finance.

27.5.3: The Council noted that a decision with regard to the enhancement of scholarship to M. Tech. students is likely to be taken shortly.

27.5.8: The Council desired that notification for amending the statutes may be issued early. Notification for amending other statutes which are pending may also be expedited.

27.5.9: The Council was informed that the IIT Nagaon, Assam, Society has been registered on 27th February, 1989. Action is being taken to amend the IIT Act, 1961 to include also the IIT Nagaon, Assam.

The Council noted the action taken. It also decided that in future a report on pending actions on the recommendations of the earlier meetings of the Council should also be reported to the Council.

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Item No.3: TO REPORT THE NOMINATION OF TWO NEW MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT AS MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL AND THE APPOINTMENT OF NEW DIRECTOR IN IIT DELHI.

Noted.

Item No.4: TO CONSIDER THE REPORT OF THE GROUP APPOINTED BY THE COUNCIL FOR IMPROVEMENT IN THE INTAKE OF SC/ST STUDENTS IN THE IITs.

The Council endorsed the recommendations made by the Group.

Item No.5: TO CONSIDER A REPORT ON THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE IIT REVIEW COMMITTEE.

Dr. Gopalan explained the action taken on the recommendations of the Review Committee on the basis of the suggestions given by the Sampath Committee and the analysis made by the Council Secretariat. Forty-five recommendations were referred to the IITs in August, 1988 for preparing plans of action and strategies for implementing them. Four IITs have already submitted plans of action to implement these 45 recommendations. On receipt of similar plan of action from the 5th IIT, a coordinated statement will be placed before the Council for monitoring their implementation.

The 9 recommendations involving Policy issues are under consideration of an Empowered Committee, which had its first meeting recently. It is hoped that the Empowered Committee's decision on these 9 recommendations will be available before the Council meets next.

Action is also being taken on the other six recommendations which come under the purview of the Government.

There are 18 recommendations which come under the purview of the IIT Council. Dr. Gopalan suggested that the Council may consider these recommendations on the basis of the observations/suggestions made by the Sampath Committee. After discussion, the Council

decided that the Committee of Chairmen, Boards of Governors and Directors of IITs may consider these 18 recommendations and give their suggestions for consideration of the Council. The recommendation concerning strengthening of the Sectt. of the Council for proper and speedy implementation of the recommendations of the Review Committee was endorsed.

Item No.6: TO CONSIDER REVISION OF SALARY SCALES FOR THE FACULTY OF IITs.

The Chairman informed the Members that he has discussed this matter with the Chairmen, Boards of Governors, Directors of IITs and the representatives of the Ministry of Finance. The matter is under consideration of the Government.

Item No.7.1: PROPOSAL TO INSTITUTE JAWAHARLAL NEHRU PROFESSORSHIPS IN IITs.

The Council approved the proposal with the modification that the words 'who should be' after the word 'technologists' appearing in the 6th line of the second paragraph of the agenda may be replaced by the words 'of the level of'. Shri Narayanan suggested that it would be desirable that the funds for the purpose should be provided by the Jawaharlal Nehru Centenary Celebration Committee.

Item No.7.2: TO CONSIDER THE PROPOSAL RECEIVED FROM THE FINANCIAL ADVISER, DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION FOR GIVING REPRESENTATION TO THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT ON THE BOARDS OF GOVERNORS OF INDIAN INSTITUTES OF TECHNOLOGY (IITs)

Shri Narayanan explained the background of the proposal and informed that in 1984 policy directions have been issued by the Ministry of Finance that the Boards of Governors of autonomous institutions receiving substantial grants should have representatives of the Government of India. Dr. Sethna and some other Members were of the view that since the Finance Committee

of IITs have representation of the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Human Resource Development, it is not desirable to have representatives of the Government of India on the Boards of Governors. After discussion, the Chairman said that he would look into the matter in consultation with the Ministry of Finance.

Item No.7.3: TO CONSIDER THE PROPOSAL RECEIVED FROM DR. V.R. GOWARIKER, SECRETARY, MINISTRY OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY REGARDING INVOLVEMENT OF IITs IN THE POPULARISATION OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY.

The Council endorsed the suggestions made by Dr. Gowariker and requested the IITs to take necessary action in the matter.

Item No.7.4: TO CONSIDER THE PROPOSAL FOR STUDENTS EXCHANGE BETWEEN INSTITUTE NATIONAL DES SCIENCES APPLIQUES DE LYON, FRANCE (INSA) AND IIT DELHI.

The Council approved the proposal.

Item No.7.5: TO CONSIDER THE PROPOSAL OF IIT DELHI TO INTRODUCE A FIVE-YEAR INTEGRATED M. TECH. PROGRAMME IN BIOCHEMICAL ENGINEERING AND BIOTECHNOLOGY FROM THE SESSION 1989-90

The proposal of IIT Delhi was approved by the Council.

Item No.7.6: PROPOSAL TO INTRODUCE AN M. PHIL PROGRAMME IN THE HUMANITIES & SOCIAL SCIENCES DEPTT. OF IIT BOMBAY.

The item was withdrawn by Prof. Nag, Director, IIT Bombay, to be discussed in detail by the Committee of Directors.

Item No.7.7: TO CONSIDER REVISION OF REGISTRATION AND EXAMINATION FEES FOR THE CONDUCT OF JEE/GATE EXAMINATION.

The Council noted the revisions already made in respect of fees for JEE and GATE examination. It was decided that in future such revisions of fees should be decided by the Joint Annual Meeting (JAM) in respect of JEE and by the National Coordinating Board (NCB) in respect of GATE examination.

Item No.7.8: TO CONSIDER THE PROPOSAL FOR ADVERTISING AND FILLING FACULTY POSITIONS AT ALL LEVELS IN IITs.

Prof. Nigam informed the Council that internal as well as external candidates will be considered for all positions including those in areas of thrust and that all recruitments will be made on open selection basis. He also clarified that no preferential treatment was intended to be given to the internal candidates. In view of the position explained above the Council approved the proposal for implementation by all IITs on a uniform basis.

Item No.7.9: TO CONSIDER THE PROPOSAL OF INVESTMENT/RE-INVESTMENT OF PROVIDEND FUND ACCUMULATIONS IN VARIOUS SCHEMES TO EARN MAXIMUM INTEREST.

Shri Narayanan informed the Council that similar proposal received from another autonomous organisation has already been referred to the Ministry of Finance and before taking any decision in the matter we should await their decision. Prof. P.N. Srivastava informed the Council that in the case of Jawaharlal Nehru University New Delhi, the Visitor has already agreed to such investments. In view of this position, the IITs also may be allowed to make such investments.

After discussion, the Council decided that since a reference has been made to the Ministry of Finance, it may be desirable to await their decision.

Shri Narayanan was requested to get the decision expedited.

Item No.8.1: TO REPORT CHANGES IN THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE COUNCIL

Noted.

Item No.8.2: TO REPORT THE PROGRESS MADE ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE IIT IN ASSAM.

Noted.

Item No.8.4: TO REPORT THE PLAN AND NON-PLAN PROVISIONS APPROVED FOR IITs.

This item was taken up before considering

Item No.8.3.

The Council noted the funds being provided by the Ministry of Human Resource Development under the normal developmental schemes. The Council also noted that substantial funds are being provided to IITs under other Plan schemes of the Ministry such as emerging areas, thrust areas, R&D etc. The Council placed on record its appreciation of the efforts made by the Ministry in this regard.

Item No.8.3: TO REPORT ON THE CONDUCT OF JEE 1990 IN INDIAN LANGUAGES.

Before the item was taken up for discussion, Prof. Nag and Prof. Mallik wanted to put on record that their representatives were present for discussion in the Ministry on 9th December, 1988 and not on 10th December, 1988. However, Shri Sangal, informed the Council that the representatives from these two IITs were requested to stay on for 10th December, 1988 also as the discussions were continuing, but they expressed their inability to do so. Prof. Nigam mentioned that the faculty members from IIT Bombay present in the meeting on the 9th and 10th December were not connected with policy

decision of conducting JEE; they were present only to discuss details of implementation of the decision.

Initiating the discussion on this item, Dr. Kapur mentioned that implementation of the decision already taken will lead to several problems. If the question papers are to be translated into 14 languages, there is bound to be leakage and it will be difficult for the IIT system to keep up the secrecy. All students admitted to IITs are going to study in English and as such they can easily read the question paper in English.

Dr. Sethna pointed out that the Directors have given a paper to the Ministry on the subject. He has also sent a note to the Minister of Human Resource Development (HRM) and Education Secretary. He suggested that the JEE should be conducted in English only till a proper glossary of technical terms is prepared.

Prof. Yash Pal was of the view that a fair knowledge of English is a must for students undertaking courses in IITs, failing which they may have to spend considerable additional time to learn English. Otherwise they may demand that they should be taught in their own languages. In this connection, he gave the example of China, where knowledge of a foreign language is a must for pursuing higher studies.

Prof. Chopra said that printing of question papers in different languages is not the problem; the problem is of translation of question papers into various languages.

Prof. Srinath mentioned that translation of question papers into various Indian languages is not an easy task. The number of students taking JEE will increase from the present number of about 80,000 to 2,00,000 or more. We will be facing two types of boys in the IITs - one knowing English and the other not knowing English.

Prof. Nag referred to the court cases in respect of admission to MBBS Courses as well as the errors in translating question papers in respect of some Kanpur University examinations.

Prof. Nigam said that a decision has already been taken to allow students to answer question papers in various languages from 1990 JEE. The IIT system has also appointed a Task Force which is going into the details of holding JEE in Indian languages. These are all major steps in the right direction. It is necessary to go with caution in implementing the decision already taken.

Prof. P.N. Srivastava was also of the view that the question papers in JEE may continue to be in English and the students should be allowed to answer the papers in any of the Indian languages. This is a very reasonable step and should be accepted for the time being.

Shri Bordia pointed out that the availability of question paper only in English could work out to the disadvantage of many who have studied in regional languages and suggested that while setting question papers in Indian languages, it may be possible to use technical terminology in English alongside. He also observed that before the previous decision to translate the paper in regional languages is modified, it has to be checked whether any commitment has already

been made to Parliament. It would also be desirable to take the Members of Parliament, who have demanded conduct of JEE in Indian languages, into confidence if any deviation from the decision already taken has to be made. Unless this is done, it would not be advisable to make any changes at this stage.

The Chairman informed the Council that there are only 1300 schools which come under the Central Board of Secondary Education and about 600 to 700 which take the examination of the All India Senior Secondary School Board. On the other hand, we have about 55,000 secondary schools in the country, where the medium of instruction is in regional languages. These are the boys and girls who are put to severe handicap if regional languages are not adopted for the conduct of JEE.

After hearing the various views expressed by the Members, the Chairman said that sooner or later we have to translate the question papers into Indian languages, as majority of the schools in the country have regional languages as the medium of instruction. He agreed to look into the matter, and could accept the position that while answers are written in a modern Indian languages of the choice of the candidate, the question papers may continue to be in English in 1990, provided no commitment of translating question papers into various languages has been made to the Parliament.

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the Chair.

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I.B. SANGAL, FIE
DIRECTOR (TECH.)
&
SECRETARY, COUNCIL
OF IITs

Government of India
Ministry of Human Resource Development
Department of Education
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D.O.No.F.10-4/89-T.6

New Delhi, the 20th October, 1989

Dear Prof. Chopra,

I am enclosing herewith a copy of the minutes of the 29th meeting of the Council of IITs held on 28th July, 1989. I shall be grateful if you would kindly send us your comments, if any, at your earliest convenience.

With regards,

Yours sincerely,

(I.B. Sangal)

Prof. K.L. Chopra,
Director,
Indian Institute of
Technology,
Kharagpur-721 302.

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2. ... 28.7.9. ...
... Second ...
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