

The 29th meeting of the Council of IITs was held on 28th July 1989 in the Conference room of the Ministry of Human Resource Development. The following were present :-

- ✓1. Shri P. Shiv Shanker .. In the Chair
- ✓2. Prof. P.N. Srivastava
- ✓3. Shri Ram Ratan Ram
- ✓4. Dr. D.V. Kapur
- ✓5. Dr. H.N. Sethna
- ✓6. Shri Russi H. Mody
- ✓7. Shri A.L. Mudaliar
- ✓8. Shri Anil Borca
- ✓9. Shri V.S. Arunachalam
- ✓10. Dr. V.R. Gowariker
- ✓11. Shri V. Krishnamurthy
- ✓12. Shri Ajit Singh
- ✓13. Prof. Ashoka Chandra
- ✓14. Shri L.S. Narayanan
- ✓15. Prof. B. Nag
- ✓16. Prof. N.C. Nigam
- ✓17. Prof. K.L. Chopra
- ✓18. Prof. A.K. Mallik
19. Prof. L.S. Srinath
- ✓20. Shri I.B. Sangal .. Secretary

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

- ✓1. Prof. Yash Pal
- ✓2. Dr. Raja Ramanna
- ✓3. Prof. C.N.R. Rao
4. Dr. A.S. Ganguly
5. Dr. M. Santappa
6. Dr. A.P. Mitra
7. Shri Williamson A. Sangma
8. Shri Ajit P.K. Jogi

The following Officers of the Ministry attended the meeting as special invitees.

1. Dr. K. Gopalan, JEA(T)
2. Shri Vijay Bharat, AEA(T)

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The Chairman welcomed the Members to the meeting and invited their attention to the demonstration outside the Shastri Bhavan regarding the JEE. Later on the agenda was taken up for consideration.

Item No. 1. To confirm the minutes of the 28th meeting of the Council held on 7th March, 1989.

The minutes were confirmed.

Item No.2. To report the action taken on the minutes of the 28th meeting of the Council of IITs held on the 7th March, 1989.

Item 28.2: Dr. Gowariker informed the Council that his Department is writing to all the Scientific Agencies and others concerned in the matter. The proposal is to give 10% of the project cost towards payment of overhead charges upto a maximum of Rs.1.00 lakh.

Item No.27.5.8: The Council desired that a small Committee of the Council may look into the question of amending the statutes which have become outdated due to passage of time.

Item No.28.7.1: The suggestion of Prof. Chopra to allot one of the existing Chairs for Jawaharlal Nehru Professorship was accepted.

Item No.28.7.2: In this context, Dr. Kapur said that IITs are supposed to be independent and one should examine all aspects before taking any decision. The existing pattern of management seemed to be working well. Almost all financial issues are first considered by the Finance Committee where the Government have representation. Shri Mody also supported the above point of view and also mentioned that the States nominate their

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Directors of Technical Education who are normally dealing with polytechnic education and have no idea of dealing with IITs. A letter in this regard may be sent to the Chief Ministers suggesting that only suitable persons should be nominated on the Board of Governors of IITs. The Chairman informed the Council that when the matter is considered by the Government, the view of the Council will be taken into consideration. He assured the members that the autonomy of the Institute under the Act and Statutes of the IITs will be maintained.

Item No. 28.7.9: Prof. Chopra mentioned that according to the existing arrangements the P.F. accumulations can be invested only in Post Office which gives only 10% interest. The Government should allow the IITs to invest in Unit Trust to earn more interest. Shri Narayanan said that the pattern of investment has been laid down by the Ministry of Finance and the Provident Fund cannot be invested in Unit Trust, unless it is approved by the Ministry of Finance. It was pointed out that the provisions under the PF Act should be checked before taking a decision. The Chairman agreed that he will write a letter to the Minister of Finance in the matter.

Item No.3: To report actions taken on pending recommendations of the earlier meetings of the Council (27th meeting).

Noted.

The Council first took up Item No.6 for consideration.

Item No.6: Conduct of Joint Entrance Examination along with English in Indian Languages.

Initiating the discussion on this item, the Chairman emphasised that the decision taken on the issue of translating the question paper as well as the facility to answer the question paper in Indian languages should be honoured by the IIT system. He explained at great length the rationale for providing

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Chairman
referred

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26 access to a very much larger segment of the students through the provision of Indian languages at the Joint Entrance Examination. He also pointed out that this feeling was shared very broadly and the national sentiments should be respected in this regard. Having once agreed to translate question papers into Hindi and other Indian languages, it may not be proper to go back on this issue. If necessary, the Ministry will be prepared to help the IITs in getting the question papers translated. It is a question of respecting the sentiments of the people. A large segment of the society have their education in regional languages and they have to be given proper opportunity for appearing in the Joint Entrance Examination.

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Prof. Mallik mentioned that they have appointed a Working Group to examine the whole issue and it would be advisable to await their findings. Prof. Chopra said that the IITs share the concern expressed and agreed that the children should study in their own languages. However, IITs are not equipped to undertake this task now. A suggestion was made that JEE may be conducted by an agency other than IITs, e.g. UPSC. In this regard it was made clear that UPSC's responsibilities are different. They do not conduct examination for admission to technical institutions.

After a good deal of discussion, it was agreed that the Chairman and Directors of the IITs will consult their faculty and will try to come up with a solution. The Council will consider this item again on 17th August, 1989 at 10.30 A.M.

Item No.4: To consider revision of salary scales of IIT Faculty.

Initiating the discussion, Shri Bordia mentioned that the Directors and Chairmen had a meeting with the Minister on 10th July, 1989. In the course of that

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meeting a suggestion was mooted by Chairman/Director that some changes, which may be acceptable to the IIT people, could be made in the Scheme of revision of scales of pay within the framework of the Cabinet approval. They were requested to give specific suggestions which could be discussed.

The suggestions made by Prof. C.N.R. Rao and Prof. Yash Pal were also taken note of. Shri Krishnamurthy was of the view that whatever pay scales are given to IIT Faculty should also be given to IIMs. The Chairman pointed out to the Council that from 1973 onwards the pay scales of IIT Faculty and those of Engineering Colleges including Regional Engineering Colleges were uniform. The Faculty of the Regional Engineering Colleges are also demanding permission to meet the Prime Minister on this issue. He was of the view that it may not be proper to go to the Cabinet again at this stage to alter their earlier decision. However, he would be happy if a small Committee could sit down and sort out this problem within the overall framework of the Cabinet decision. After the recommendations of this Committee are available the matter can be discussed with the Officers of the Ministry of Finance.

After discussion, the Council decided that a small Committee consisting of Dr. Gowariker, Dr. Kapur and Shri Anil Bordia will work out a proposal within the overall framework of the Cabinet decision which could later be discussed with the Officers of the Finance Ministry, and others before taking up with the Cabinet if considered necessary.

Item No.5: Role of the IIT Council vis-a-vis the All India Council for Technical Education(AICTE)

The Council was in full agreement that the autonomy of the IIT system should be safeguarded and the IITs should continue to be governed by the provisions of the

IIT Act and Statutes. The Council passed the following Resolution:-

"The Council resolved that notwithstanding anything contained in the AICTE Act 1987, IITs will continue to be governed by the provisions of IITs Act 1961 and the Statutes framed there under".

The Council also resolved that the above Resolution may be forwarded to the AICTE and the Ministry of Human Resource Development for necessary action.

The meeting was then adjourned until 17 August to continue consideration of item Numbers 4 and 6.

The adjourned meeting of the Council was held on 17th August, 1987 in the Cor Room of the Ministry of Human Resource Development. The following were present:-

1. Shri P. Shiv Shanker .. In Chair
2. Prof. P.N. Srivastava
3. Prof. Yash Pal
4. Shri Ram Ratan Ram
5. Shri Ajit P.K. Jogi
6. Dr. H.N. Sethna
7. Dr. D.V. Kapur
8. Shri A.L. Mudaliar
9. Shri Ajit Singh
10. Shri Anil Bordia
11. Dr. V.S. Arunachalam
12. Prof. Ashoka Chandra
13. Shri L.S. Narayanan
14. Prof. N.C. Nigam
15. Prof. K.L. Chopra
16. Prof. B. Nag
17. Prof. A.K. Mallik
18. Prof. N.V.C. Swamy
19. Shri I.B. Sangal .. Secretary

The Chairman of the Council, read out a letter

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signed by the Chairmen, Board of Governors of IITs at Kharagpur, Delhi, Kanpur and Madras. This letter he had received just five minutes prior to the meeting. After reading out the contents of the letter, the Chairman asked the members whether he may take it that the IITs have already taken a decision in the matter and communicated it through this letter. If that be so, he felt that matter should not be discussed any further. He said that he had strong views on the matter and would not want to be a party to a decision implied in the letter of the Chairmen of the IITs. He also informed the Council that this matter had been discussed at great length in the Rajya Sabha where there was a unanimous demand for the implementation of the decision in full and that he had on behalf of the Council indicated that IIT authorities would come forward with a positive proposal regarding the question paper being supplied in different Indian languages when the Council meets next on August 17. He had also on that occasion made an appeal to those who were on hunger strike to discontinue the hunger strike and that the Deputy Chairman of the Rajya Sabha had also associated with this appeal. In view of such strong unanimous sentiments in the matter and his own personal view of providing access to all segments of the society, he could not agree to associate himself with the deliberation/discussion of the Council where he would not be in a position to vote and would get bound by the decision. He explained that this will enable him to take appropriate decisions in his capacity as the Minister. Since the Chairmen of the Board of Governors of IITs had presented him with a fait accompli, he would prefer to stay away from the deliberations of the Council on this issue.

Dr. Kapur, Chairman, IIT Bombay explained that these were the views of the four Chairmen and not of

the IIT system and that it had already been agreed in September, 1988 that JEE question papers can be answered in Indian Languages. There is no going back on this issue. The issue of translation of question papers has to be examined by the Council.

Shri Anil Bordia, Education Secretary while expressing his feelings about the letter mentioned that this meeting of the Council has been convened to consider a specific issue and an opinion expressed by some Chairmen outside the meeting cannot be taken as the views of the IITs. He felt unhappy about the manner in which some Members of the Council had met privately and given a decision on an issue which was to be considered in the meeting of the Council.

At this point the Chairman withdrew from the meeting and requested Prof. P.N. Srivastava, Member, Planning Commission to Chair the meeting. Prof. Srivastava accordingly chaired rest of the meeting.

Shri Jogi was of the firm view that when once a decision had been taken to allow the students to write answer scripts in Indian languages and to translate question papers of JEE 1990, that decision should be honoured. If IAS examinations can be conducted in various languages, why not the JEE.

Dr. Sethna, informed the Council that the four Chairmen met in Bombay and the views expressed in their letter addressed to the Minister were their personal views. He also desired that a decision on the revised pay scales of the faculty should be taken at the earliest.

Shri Ram Ratan Ram was also of the view that an opportunity should be given to the students by implementing the decision already taken.

Prof. Yash Pal suggested that whereas we have already agreed that answers to JEE 1990 could be in

Indian languages, the question papers for the JEE 1990 may be in two languages i.e. English and Hindi. Other languages could be introduced based on this experience. Dr. Kapur supported the suggestion made by Prof. Yash Pal.

The Council deliberated on this question in detail. Taking various factors into consideration, the Council unanimously adopted the following resolution moved by Prof. Yash Pal and seconded by Dr. D.V. Kapur :

- (a) The students will be allowed to answer question papers of JEE 1990 and of subsequent years in the various Indian languages alongwith English as already decided.
- (b) The question paper of JEE 1990 will be provided in two languages i.e. English and Hindi as a transition measure. After this experience, one will move in the direction of providing question papers in the other languages also.

Commenting on the enormity of the task, Profs. Chopra, Nigam and Mallik were of the view that holding of JEE should be taken out from the IIT System as the IITs were not capable of handling such a huge task.

Taking note of the above views expressed by the three Directors, the Council also decided that it is necessary to work out within a fixed time frame a mechanism to conduct this examination in the long term.

Thereafter the postponed, Item No.4 was taken up for consideration.

Item No.4: To consider revision of salary scales of IIT Faculty

Shri Anil Bordia reported to the Council what had been done in this regard. He informed that three-Member Committee was set up to go into this matter and they have held one meeting so far. They propose to meet again very soon to arrive at conclusions. He also requested Dr. Kapur to have prior consultation with

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the Directors of IITs before the Committee finalised its recommendations in order that thereafter the decisions are treated with finality and implemented accordingly. Dr. Kapur informed the Council that the Committee has had some very useful discussions in its first meeting and it should be possible to arrive at some consensus soon. The Council requested the Committee to finalise its recommendations by 15th September, 1989.

Commenting on the wish of some members to set a final date for announcement of revised pay scales Shri Anil Bordia explained that beyond the time limit fixed for the Committee a time frame cannot be given on the final decision on this issue as it may require to be referred to the Cabinet. He, however, assured that the Ministry will try to get the matter processed as early as possible.

Dr. Chopra also referred to the revision of pay scales of Group 'A' officers which are linked with the Faculty scales. It was urged that revised pay scales for Group 'A' Officers (Non-faculty) of the IITs should also be finalised at an early date.

A reference was also made to the decision already taken under Item No. 5. The Council reiterated its earlier decision that the Resolution passed by the Council may be sent to the AICTE and to the Ministry of HRD for necessary action.

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

IMMEDIATE

S.R. TAYAL
DIRECTOR (UU) &
SECRETARY, COUNCIL
OF IITs.

Government of India
Ministry of Human Resource Development
(Department of Education)

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D.O.No.F.10-7/90-TD I New Delhi, the 4th April, 1991.

Dear Prof. Chopra,

I am enclosing herewith a copy of the minutes of the 30th meeting of the Council of IITs held on 14th February, 1991. I shall be grateful, if you would kindly send us your comments, if any, at your earliest convenience.

With regards,

Yours sincerely,

S.R. Tayal
(S.R. Tayal)

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

K.L. Chopra
8/4/91