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**ORISSA**

**Oct 7, 2006**



**IIT campus: Sahu writes to Arjun for an early approval**

Saturday October 7 2006 12:15 IST

BHUBANESWAR: Union Minister of State for Labour and Employment Chandrasekhar Sahu has requested the Centre to positively consider the proposal of the IIT Kharagpur to upgrade its existing facility here to a full-fledged campus.

In a letter to the Human Resource Development (HRD) Minister Arjun Singh, Sahu said as the State Government has agreed to provide 300 acres of land for the purpose, the proposal should be Okayed as early as possible.

IIT Kharagpur set up an extension campus in Bhubaneswar in 1996. Stating that the then chief minister J B Patnaik played a significant role in the opening of the extension campus, Sahu said it had generated hopes of a full-fledged campus in future. However, the hopes could not materialise for different reasons.

The Union Minister referred to the proposal of the Centre to set up a National Institute of Science for Education and Research in Bhubaneswar as contemplated by the University Grants Commission in 2003. Subsequently, the Centre decided to set up the institute in Kolkata through HRD Ministry.

The decision had generated a lot of resentment in Orissa, which led Prime Minister Manmohan Singh to announce establishment of such an institute in Bhubaneswar under the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE).

Sahu, however, pointed out that there has always been a demand for establishment of an IIT in the State.

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A full-fledged campus would meet a long-standing demand of the people of the State, he said and added, this would also provide an impetus to the developmental activities in the State and contribute to its all-round growth.

Leader of Opposition JB has also written similar letter to the HRD Minister requesting him to approve the proposal at an early date.

Establishment of a full-fledged campus would meet the growing demand for higher technical education in the State as well as entire Eastern Region, he reasoned.

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