

Meeting with the Higher Education Minister

A meeting with the Higher Education Minister with ABSGCTA and WBGCTA was held on 2.7.15. ABSGCTA was represented by the President, General Secretary, Pradip K. Datta and B.B.Chakraborty. Education Secretary Vivek Kumar, Madhumita Roy and DPI were present in the meeting. The issues discussed were:

1. Past Service benefit of the teachers who joined WBES : Education Secretary and Madhumita Roy said that since they joined a cadre service they cannot get the benefit for CAS. It was pointed out that according to the existing G.O. they are entitled to get the benefit. Further the benefit has been given earlier. Many teachers have enjoyed the benefit and some of them have retired and getting pension. So some teachers are being discriminated. This violates Article 14 of the constitution. They wanted some cases where the benefit has been given.
2. Increment for Ph.D. & M.Phil. : Madhumita Roy said that the Finance has not yet agreed and has raised some silly questions. Education Minister said that he will talk with the Finance Minister.
3. CAS for teachers of Engg. & Technological Colleges : Madhumita Roy said that a proposal has been sent to the Finance Dept. Education Minister asked the Education Secretary to pursue it.
4. Departmental promotion to WBSES : It was pointed out that only five teachers have been promoted to WBSES. Education Minister asked the officers to take up the issue.
5. Inclusion of Librarians to WBES : A file has been sent to the PSC for their opinion in April,15. Education Minister talked over the phone to PSC and requested to send the file back with their comments as early as possible.
6. Conversion of Sanskrit College to Sanskrit University: Both the associations strongly opposed it. We suggested that Sanskrit University may be established without converting Sanskrit College. A prolonged debate with the Education Minister was made. He said that a high power committee has been formed which will decide on the issue. We urged him to give us opportunity to place our views to the committee. He agreed.
7. Setting up of a State University comprising with all Govt. Colleges : Education Minister said it is under his consideration.
8. Problems of new colleges : The acute problem of transport and accommodation in the new colleges were brought to the notice of the Education Minister. He said that he will try to arrange for transport and talk to the Transport Dept.
9. Arrear Pay : Education Minister said that after getting the utilisation certificate from the colleges central govt. Will be approached for fund.
10. Rationalisation of Staff pattern : Education Minister said that it will be done for the schools and colleges.
11. Bringing back Bidhannagar College under C.U : Initially this was turned down on the ground that a single college cannot be taken out of any university. However, Education Minister said that it will be discussed later.
12. Non-teaching posts in colleges : The point was raised but could not be discussed.

We urged the Education Minister to meet us separately. He agreed.