

Ministry's refusal to allot land for IIT-I

Director gets no response from CS for talks

HT Correspondent

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INDORE: Three days since the Union environment ministry refused to allot forestland for setting up IIT in Indore, MP chief secretary did not respond to the request for talks with IIT-I director Pradeep Mathur.

Principal secretary higher and technical education Sanjay Singh stated that he was not aware of any such issue.

Thursday was a busy day for Mathur who contacted the Ministry of Human Resource Development (MoHRD) over telephone and tried to speak with the chief secretary but managed to speak to the principal secretary. The local adminis-

■ The major point of objection raised by the Union Environment Ministry in allotting forestland is that as per the law, if the non-forest land is available, the forestland cannot be given.

■ According to IIT-I officials, there is, in fact, a private land surrounding the allotted 500-acre campus for IIT-I being set up in Simrol, about 25 km from the city.

■ IIT-I officials say: "The Simrol

campus is landlocked and not touching the main road except for a narrow strip merely allowing vehicular access."

■ As per IIT-I officials, the mere re-submitting of scuttled proposal by state government officials is not going to work. Delay is quite obvious and the plan for setting up a laboratory in 2012 will have to be taken up temporarily on present rented premises of the

Institute of Engineering Technology (IET) of Devi Ahilya Vishwavidyalaya (DAVV) at Khandwa Road.

■ Private land available on rent for setting up laboratories in and around Khandwa Road is being searched for. The Second and third year students and the faculty will be shifted to auto cluster at Pithampur soon to tide over space problem.

tration did not contact IIT-I.

Talking to HT, Mathur said, "The working of the state bureaucracy certainly is lackadaisical. An IIT-I is a national-level institute and the state govern-

ment had promised granting a minimum of 500-acre land for setting up it in MP. Indore had become the only city in the country to have both an IIT and an IIM. That feeling of pride is miss-

ing in their attitude."

Mathur said he had sent a message to the chief secretary's office on Wednesday for an appointment but received no response. The principal secre-

tary who stated that he was not aware of the issue only re out excerpts from the Union Environment Ministry's refusal note.

Mathur said he was informed by their project engineer of having written requests on several occasions to the state government officials for showing us copy of the proposal being sent to the environment ministry. But it was never shown to IIT-I.

Mathur requested Sanjay Singh for holding a meeting with the local administration and for est officials at IIT, Indore.

But Singh said he would let it know by the end of the next week. Regarding the state government probable move in this regard,

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Singh said to Mathur that the scuttled proposal would be redrawn and re-sent.

IET PROBLEMS

The Institute of Engineering Technology (IET) is facing problems after providing space to the Indian Institute of Technology, Indore (IIT-I).

IET has already given 53,000-sqm to IIT-I. Now, the IET is left with only nearly 15,000-sqm. The memorandum of understanding (MoU) between the IET and the IIT-I on shar-

ing land is expiring in June 2012. IET cannot run its 12 courses, including six of BE and six of ME, from the 15,000-sqm area.

The All India Council of Technical Education (AICTE) inspection is expected any time and with lack of space, IET might face de-recognition.

IET director Dr Manohar Chandwani said, "Space left with us now after lending part space to IIT-I is less. There are practical problems in holding classes. After expiry of MoU, if IIT-I still occupies our campus, our problems will increase manifold."