

EDITORIAL

Self Financed Engineering Institutes need facilities for Training their Staff.

Till recently, The Engineering Institutes-Engineering Colleges and Polytechnics-were established & financed by the govt. or by educational societies but aided by the govt. Gradually the demand for Engineering courses increased tremendously but the intake capacity of these colleges increased only marginally and there was a wide gap between the demand and available intake capacity. The State Govts could not provide additional funds for Engineering Education & hence permitted establishment of Private Engineering Institutions both Engineering Colleges & Polytechnics" on no grant basis", thus un-aided or self financed Engineering Institutes started during the last 10-15 years in Andra Pradesh, Karnataka, Tamilnadu & Maharashtra. On a rough estimate, there are about 100 Govt./Govt. aided and about 150 self financed Engineering Colleges & 200 Govt./Govt. aided Polytechnics & 325 self financed Polytechnics in these four Southern states. All these self financed institutes have been recognised by their respective State Govts and granted affiliation by the respective State Universities/State Board of Technical Examinations. They are inspected by committees - Local Enquiry Committees of the Universities & Committees appointed by Boards of Technical Examinations; even by so called High Power Committees appointed by State Governments, from time to time. Some of these have been approved by the AICTE as well & others are waiting their turn for inspection by AICTE, for years. In short, it may be safely stated that these Engineering Institutes have come to stay. They have developed all the infrastructure in terms of Buildings, equipment, Library, hostels & play grounds. Some of these have reached the standards of REC'S, some other can be matched with well established State Govt. Institutes; Yet, on the whole, many of these have acquired only minimum standard just sufficient for survival by Inspection Committees but cannot lay claim on quality & excellence to any degree. What they need for this, is guidance, supervision, a watchful eye and facilities for training their staff. Orientation programs for newly recruited teachers, qualification upgrading programs for teachers, Training for Laboratory Technicians, Clerical Staff, Training for Principals & Heads of Departments in educational planning & implementation. It is a huge task. These self financed Engineering Institutes with a total students strength of

more than Three lakhs, are served by 30,000 teachers, 5,000 Lab. Assistants and 5,000 Administrative Staff. To train them is a challenging task and this has to be accepted. But by whom?

The Central & State Govts. should & must undertake this responsibility. They must provide necessary facilities. They may say "we have no funds " but they cannot deny their ability to discharge this responsibility, if funds are provided. For funds they can safely depend on self financed Institutions, all that they need to do is to indentify the task & its dimensions, plan organisational set up, decide the strategy & methods for carrying out the programs, provide a watchful eye to supervise & monitor these Training Programs. The initiative lies with MHRD & State Directorates. If they have permitted self-financed Engineering Institutes, they are responsible for their standards and quality. The problems of funds, they have already found a way out in "SELF - FINANCED Institutes.

However, the self financed institutions should not wait indefinitely or long for the Govt. to act. If Govt. does not act, they must pool their resources and accept the challenge. If they can run successfully an Engineering College/Polytechnic individually, cannot they establish a Staff Training College for self- financed Engineering Institutes, & provide not merely funds but the planning skill, administrative ability to solve their own problem of staff Training. If their ultimate goal is, as it should be, Quality & Excellence, they must accept this challenge, on their own.

July 1992.

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