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NIS to be set up in Bhubaneswar

Bhubaneswar, June 30: Prime Minister Manmohan Singh has assured that a National Institute of Science (NIS) would be set up here, an official release said today.

Singh gave the assurance to Union Minister of State for Labour Chandrasekhar Sahu at a recent meeting, it said.

Sahu, who met the Prime Minister in New Delhi over some pending major issues related to Orissa, had apprised him that the UGC had announced in 2003 to set up four regional centres of integrated science at Bhubaneswar, Pune, Allahabad and Chennai.

For this purpose, Sahu said, 75 acres had been identified at Gothapatna in Bhubaneswar. However, the Centre had shelved the proposal on the ground that the UGC was not competent to set up such institutes under the act.

The Centre had decided to establish two National Institutes of Science for research at Kolkata and Pune under the Ministry of Human Resource Development, he said and urged Singh to either revive the UGC proposal to set up the NIS at Bhubaneswar or implement the same under the HRD Ministry, it said.

The Prime Minister, the release said, had responded positively to the suggestion.

Sahu during his discussion with the Prime Minister referred to the Planning Commission's move to provide central assistance to the backward region grant fund (BRGF) for use in the most backward districts in the country in line with the existing Rashtriya Sam Vikash Yojana (RSVY).

The Orissa government, he said had requested for inclusion of 20 backward districts of the state, including five covered under RSVY, in the BRGF scheme.

Considering the abject poverty and increased Naxalite activities in most of these backward districts, the Prime Minister had agreed to their inclusion under the BRGF scheme, the release said.

Sahu also requested the Prime Minister to set up a Central University in the KBK districts in Orissa having specialised centres for tribal development and poverty amelioration-related studies.

A Central University was required in the state as nearly 50 per cent of its geographical area constituted its poorest region, he said and urged the Prime Minister to elevate the University College of Engineering at Burla to the status of Indian Institute of Technology, the release added.

Bureau Report

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