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Students oppose plan to hike MTech fees in IITs

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar: Students and academicians on Saturday opposed the decision to hike MTech fees in IITs by nearly 900 per cent and urged the Union ministry of human resource development to revise the fee structure.

They also criticized the decision to stop the stipends of MTech students.

Binod Dash, secretary of Odisha Private Engineering College Association (OPECA), said the fee hike is not justified.

"If government institutions increase the fees like private counterparts,

then what will be the difference between public institutions and others," he asked.

He said some students leave the MTech midway after getting good jobs, but it is not logical to hike fees. "Dropout will be there even if the fee is increased," he added.

At present, an MTech student at IIT Bhubaneswar has to pay between Rs 5,000 and Rs 10,000 per semester, depending on the field of study. There are four semesters over a two-year period.

If the new fee structure comes into effect, then the cost could be between Rs 45,000 and Rs

90,000 and the total cost could be anything between Rs 2 lakh and Rs 4 lakh.

Educationist Pritish Acharya said poor meritorious students were choosing IITs over private institutions because of its low cost. "Now people without money won't be able to do MTech in an IIT as the course will become expensive. Only rich kids will now be able to get education," Acharya said.

Biswajeet Jena, a BTech student said the hike will hurt students. "I feel the IITs should not increase fees by around 900

per cent as several poor students study there. The stipend also should

not be stopped," he said.

An IIT student requesting his anonymity expressed concern for increasing the M Tech fees.

"The IITs had increased the BTech fees some years back. Now they are going to increase the MTech fees. It will affect a lot of students," said a student of IIT Bhubaneswar.

IIT Bhubaneswar director R V Rajakumar said, "The fee is being revised but it will not be a significant rise. The fee waivers will continue. Those who do not fall under the fee waiver bracket will have to pay the hiked amount."

**900% INCREASE
PROPOSED**