



MINUTES OF THE 139TH MEETING OF THE BOARD OF MANAGEMENT HELD ON MARCH 17, 2020 AT 11.00 A.M. IN THE BOARD ROOM, VCO BLOCK, IGNOU CAMPUS, MAIDAN GARHI, NEW DELHI-110068

The following were present:

1.	Prof. Nageshwar Rao, Vice-Chancellor	- Chairman
2.	Prof. Ravindra Ramchandra Kanhere, Pro-Vice Chancellor	- Member
3.	Shri Madan Mohan, ADG (HE), MHRD	- Nominee, Secretary, MHRD
4.	Prof. S.G. Deshmukh	- Member
5.	Prof. Subha Sankar Sarkar	- Member
6.	Dr. P. Prakash	- Member
7.	Prof. Poornima Mital	- Member
8.	Prof. Debal K. Singharoy	- Member
9.	Dr. Ranjan Kumar	- Member
	Dr. V.B. Negi, Registrar, Admn.(I/c)	- Secretary

The Secretary (Ministry of Information & Broadcasting), Prof. V.S. Prasad, Shri Ashok Bhagat, Shri Atul Kantilal Nishar and Prof. K.K. Aggarwal, Members could not attend the meeting.

Shri A.K. Gigoo, Assistant Registrar (Governance) was present to assist the Board.

The meeting of the Board of Management began with a welcome note by the Chairman. The Chairman placed on record his appreciation towards the contributions made by Shri Vinod Kumar, Ex. Deputy Registrar (Admn.-Gov.) in assisting successful conduct of the BOM meetings, before taking VRS from the services of the University.

Before taking up the Agenda items, the Chairman presented a brief account of the developments that took place in the University since the last meeting of the Board (138th Emergent meeting) held on 29.11.2019, as under:

1. On behalf of the Board, the Chairman welcomed the new Secretary, Higher Education (MHRD) Shri Amit Khare, who has been kind enough in motivating and supporting the endeavours of University.
2. The 33rd Convocation of the University was successfully conducted on 17.02.2020 at Headquarters in New Delhi and 39 Regional Centres across the country. Hon'ble Minister of HRD, Shri Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank, was the Chief Guest at the Convocation at Headquarters. One Governor of the State and one State Minister were also the Chief Guests at two Regional Centres. Overall more than 2 lacs degrees were awarded to the successful students. The Curtain Raiser was adorned in all regional languages and the speech of the Chief Guest was published in all regional languages.
3. The admissions in various programmes substantially increased from 2,21,000 to 2,70,000 in the January 2020 session. The admissions for the July 2019 and January 2020 sessions have shown an increase in enrolment of 1,30,000.
4. The University has recently launched CBCS based Honours Programmes which have become very popular amongst the students leading to an increase in enrolment by about 20%.
5. The Recruitment process is in progress. Advertisements were published for recruitment to the posts of Registrar (SED), Deputy Registrars, Director (Computer Division), Security Officer and Public Relation Officer. The last date of submission of form has been extended after incorporating DoPT guidelines on age relaxation to various categories.
6. A meeting was held with the Director General, CPWD for their involvement in the construction of buildings at IGNOU Hqs. and Regional Centres located all over India and accordingly, CPWD nominated one official at the level of ADG as a Nodal Officer to oversee construction work. All the works shall be monitored from Delhi office.
7. Department of Post, Govt. of India has been approached in connection with timely dispatch of study material to the students across the country with the assistance of CPMG of all states.
8. The University has been exempted by the UGC for online programmes which has been published in the Gazette of India on 17.01.2020. The guidelines for the same will be evolved for launching the online programmes of IGNOU.
9. i-Gram portal has been successfully functioning for monitoring the student's grievances and monthly report is submitted to the MHRD.
10. The Self Appraisal report of IGNOU was submitted on 07.03.2020 to the NAAC for assessment and accreditation process.

After the above prefatory remarks, the Secretary, BOM presented the following Agenda:

ITEM NO. 1 (A) TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF 137TH MEETING OF THE BOARD OF MANAGEMENT HELD ON OCTOBER 16, 2019 AND

(B) TO NOTE THE ACTION TAKEN REPORT

BM 139.1.1 The Secretary informed the Board that the Minutes of 137th Meeting of the Board of Management held on 16.10.2019 were circulated to the members of the Board on 21.10.2019. The comments/ observations were received from Prof. V.S. Prasad and Prof. Debal K. SinghaRoy. The comments/observations were placed before the Board for its consideration.

BM 139.1.2 The Board deliberated the aforesaid comments received from BOM members and agreed to incorporate the modification in the Resolution No.BM 137.19.2, as per details given below:

'The Board took a view that any university (SOUs included) is in the business of generating knowledge and use that to teach its students. If it cannot develop its own text for its own routine graduate and post graduate programmes, its status as a university is questionable. It thus cannot survive long term on the borrowed knowledge of other education institutions. Thus Board took a very serious view and directed that the existing MOUs are to be withdrawn immediately and in future the sharing of study material of the University be avoided with other universities/institutions which may be decided on case-to-case basis, keeping in view the university IPR and OER policies and interests of IGNOU.'

The Board directed that current updated information may also be obtained from all institutions presently under MOU/MOC.

BM 139.1.3 The Board also noted the Action Taken Reports and confirmed the Minutes of the 137th Board Meeting with the above observations / directions (**Appendix 1**).

ITEM NO. 2 TO NOTE THE CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF 138TH MEETING (EMERGENT) OF THE BOARD OF MANAGEMENT HELD ON NOVEMBER 29, 2019 AND THE ACTION TAKEN REPORT THEREON

BM 139.2.1 As the minutes had already been confirmed by the Board, the Board noted the action taken report on the minutes of 138th meeting (Emergent) held on 29.11.2019 (**Appendix 2**).

ITEM NO. 3 (A) TO RATIFY THE ACTION TAKEN BY THE VICE CHANCELLOR IN APPOINTMENT/GIVING CHARGE OF THE CENTRE/CELL
(B) TO REPORT THE MATTER RELATED TO ENTRUSTING THE CHARGE OF THE POSITION OF REGISTRAR, STUDENT EVALUATION DIVISION

BM 139.3.1 (A) The Board ratified the action taken by the Vice Chancellor in appointment/giving charge of the Centre/Cell to the following Teacher/Academics as per details given below:

#	Name of the Teacher/Academic	School/Division/Centre/ Unit/Cell	Period of Appointment/ Charge given
1.	Prof. Satyakam, Pro-Vice Chancellor	Centre for Freedom Struggle and Diaspora Studies (CFSDS)	31.10.2019 (A/N) to till further orders
2.	Dr. K.D. Prasad, Deputy Director	Campus Placement Cell (CPC)	24.10.2019 to till 15.01.2020
3.	Dr. V. P. Rupam, Deputy Director	Campus Placement Cell (CPC)	15.01.2020 to till further orders

(B) The Board also noted the action taken by the Vice Chancellor in giving the additional charge of the position of Registrar, Student Evaluation Division to Dr. V.B. Negi, Registrar (Admn.) I/c w.e.f. 11.11.2019 till further orders.

ITEM NO. 4 TO RATIFY THE DECISION TAKEN BY THE VICE CHANCELLOR IN GRANTING EXTENSION OF EXTRA ORDINARY LEAVE (EOL) TO PROF. MANOJ KULSHRESTHA, PROFESSOR OF CIVIL ENGINEERING, SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING AND TECHNOLOGY (SOET) TILL 05.10.2023

BM 139.4.1 The Board ratified the action taken by the Vice Chancellor in granting extension of EOL to Prof. Manoj Kulshreshtha, School of Engineering and Technology till 05.10.2023.

ITEM NO. 5 TO RATIFY THE ACTION TAKEN BY THE VICE CHANCELLOR IN ACCEPTING THE REQUEST OF DR. T. IRALU, REGIONAL DIRECTOR, REGIONAL CENTRE, KOHIMA, NAGALAND FOR VOLUNTARY RETIREMENT FROM THE SERVICES OF THE UNIVERSITY

BM 139.5.1 The Board ratified the action taken by the Vice Chancellor in accepting the request of Dr. T. Iralu, Regional Director, RC Kohima, Nagaland for voluntary retirement from the services of the University w.e.f. 02.03.2020 (F/N).

ITEM NO. 6 TO RATIFY THE ACTION TAKEN BY THE VICE CHANCELLOR IN REVIVAL/RE-ACTIVATION OF CENTRE FOR BHOJPURI LANGUAGE, LITERATURE AND CULTURE (CBLLC) AND PLACE IT WITHIN THE SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES

BM 139.6.1 The Board ratified the action taken by the Vice Chancellor in reviving/re-activation of Centre for Bhojpuri Language, Literature and Culture (CBLLC) and to place it within the School of Humanities with a separate budget head. It was also suggested that the University may initiate development of diploma courses in the regional languages enshrined in the Constitution other than those offered by SOUs.

ITEM NO. 7 TO CONSIDER AND APPROVE THE RECOGNITION OF CLASCMA INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION & RESEARCH CENTRE, SINGAPORE AS AN OVERSEAS STUDY CENTRE OF IGNOU

BM 139.7.1 The Board was informed that the proposal for recognition of Overseas Study Centre at Clascma International Education & Research Centre, Singapore was placed before the 137th meeting of the BOM held on 16.10.2019 wherein the Board had desired a thorough review of the proposal. As desired by the Board, the proposal has accordingly been re-examined once again and found in order. The ADG (HE), MHRD suggested that in future International Division of the University may submit a comprehensive proposal giving all the details at the time of forwarding the proposal to the MHRD for approval.

The Board approved the proposal with the above observations.

ITEM NO. 8 TO RATIFY THE ACTION TAKEN BY THE VICE CHANCELLOR IN ACCEPTING THE REQUEST OF PROF. P. K. BISWAS, PROFESSOR OF DISTANCE EDUCATION, STRIDE FOR VOLUNTARY RETIREMENT FROM THE SERVICES OF THE UNIVERSITY

BM 139.8.1 The Board ratified the action taken by the Vice Chancellor in accepting the request of Prof. P.K. Biswas, Professor of Distance Education, STRIDE for voluntary retirement from the services of the University w.e.f. 29.02.2020 (A/N).

ITEM NO. 9 TO RATIFY THE ACTION TAKEN BY THE VICE CHANCELLOR ON THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE COMMITTEE CONSTITUTED FOR RECOMMENDATION ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF NOTIFICATION DATED 02.12.2019 REGARDING SWITCH OVER FROM CPF TO GPF SCHEME BY SOME OF THE EMPLOYEE OF IGNOU

BM 139.9.1 The Chairman informed that the Board of Management in its 137th meeting held on 16.10.2019 while considering the matter regarding switchover from CPF to GPF by some of the employees directed to take necessary action strictly as per the advice of the MHRD vide letter dt.20.9.2019 and accordingly, the relevant notification was issued on 02.12.2019. Subsequently, a Committee was also constituted by the University for recommendations on the implementation of the said notification. The Committee had recommended the following:

- (i) Switchover from CPF Scheme to GPF Scheme of 26 in-service and such retired employees whose Management share of CPF is with the University (as per the minutes dated 27.01.2020) (List of 26 employees is placed as **Appendix 3**)*
- (ii) Employees covered under CPF should be asked to complete all formalities like filling up of GPF/Nomination Form, etc.*
- (iii) Administration Division should transfer the Employer's Contribution from the existing CPF Fund to the GPF and all the CPF Subscribers in-service should be allotted GPF account.*
- (iv) While implementing the GPF-cum-Pension Scheme, the administration and Financial Rules and Regulation of the University is to be strictly followed.*

Further, the Chairman informed the Board about the following:

- (1) The pension commutation of existing retired employees shall only be allowed after two years.

- (2) The Pension arrears shall be paid after two years.
 (3) Pension shall be released with effect from 01.03.2020.

BM 139.9.2 The Board noted the action taken by the University as above.

ITEM NO. 10 TO CONSIDER THE MINUTES OF SELECTION COMMITTEE FOR PROMOTIONS OF TEACHERS AND ACADEMICS UNDER CAREER ADVANCEMENT SCHEME (CAS)

BM 139.10.1 The Board was informed that the University had conducted the Screening Committee / Selection Committee meetings for Career Advancement of Teachers and Academics of the University as per Ordinances on Career Advancement Scheme of Teachers and Academics based on UGC Regulations, 2010 read with subsequent amendments thereto. The recommendations of the Screening cum Selection Committee/Selection Committee meetings were placed before the Board for consideration. The Board approved the same, as per details given below:

Date of Selection Committee Meeting	Position(s)	Name(s) recommended by the Selection Committee	Date of eligibility
09.12.2019	Promotion to the post of Professor in School of Sciences (AGP Rs.10,000/-)	Dr. Manish Trivedi	18.11.2016
09.12.2019	Promotion to the post of Professor in School of Education (AGP Rs.10,000/-)	Dr. Sutapa Bose	04.06.2018
09.12.2019	Promotion to the post of Professor in School of Education (AGP Rs.10,000/-)	Dr. Bharti Dogra	17.10.2017
09.12.2019	Promotion to the post of Professor in School of Education (AGP Rs.10,000/-)	Dr. Yalavarthi Nirmala	24.11.2017
09.12.2019	Promotion to the post of Professor in School of Education (AGP Rs.10,000/-)	Dr. Vandana Singh	27.10.2017
09.12.2019	Promotion to the post of Professor in School of Translation Studies and Training (AGP Rs.10,000/-)	Dr. Rajendra Prasad Pandey	11.02.2012
09.12.2019	Promotion to the post of	Dr. Jagdish Sharma	15.05.2014

	Professor in School of Translation Studies and Training (AGP Rs.10,000/-)		
09.12.2019	Promotion to the post of Associate Professor, STRIDE (AGP Rs.9,000/-)	Dr. Amiteshwar Ratra	04.04.2018
09.12.2019	Promotion to the post of Assistant Professor (Stage III) in School of Management Studies (AGP Rs.8,000/-)	Dr. Anupriya Pandey	09.09.2017
09.12.2019	Promotion to the post of Assistant Professor (Stage III) in School of Management Studies (AGP Rs.8,000/-)	Dr. Leena Singh	05.05.2017
09.12.2019	Promotion to the post of Assistant Professor (Stage II) in School of Sciences (AGP Rs.7,000/-)	Dr. Rajesh	11.08.2016
09.12.2019	Promotion to the post of Assistant Professor (Stage II) in School of Sciences (AGP Rs.7,000/-)	Dr. Prabhat Kumar Sangal	15.06.2016
09.12.2019	Promotion to the post of Assistant Professor (Stage II) in School of Vocational Education and Training (AGP Rs.7,000/-)	Ms. Urshla Kant	01.05.2014
09.12.2019	Promotion to the post of Deputy Director, RSD (AGP Rs.9,000/-)	Dr. Amit Kumar Srivastava	17.04.2018
09.12.2019	Promotion to the post of Deputy Director, RSD (AGP Rs.9,000/-)	Dr. Bir Abimanyu Kumar	03.05.2018
09.12.2019	Promotion to the post of Deputy Director, RSD (AGP Rs.9,000/-)	Dr. Moti Ram	17.04.2018
09.12.2019	Promotion to the post of Deputy Director, RSD (AGP Rs.9,000/-)	Dr. Mokbul Ali Laskar	27.04.2018
09.12.2019	Promotion to the post of Deputy Director, RSD (AGP Rs.9,000/-)	Dr. Sindhu P Nair	26.01.2016
09.12.2019	Promotion to the post of Deputy	Dr. Neelam Chaudhary	25.01.2014

	Director, P&DD (AGP Rs.9,000/-)		
09.12.2019	Promotion to the post of Deputy Director, P&DD (AGP Rs.9,000/-)	Dr. Sunil Kumar	25.01.2014
09.12.2019	Promotion to the post of Deputy Director, P&DD (AGP Rs.9,000/-)	Shri Girija Shankar	25.01.2014
02.03.2020	Promotion to the post of Professor in SOITS (AGP Rs.10,000/-)	Dr. Shachi Shah	16.11.2017
02.03.2020	Promotion to the post of Professor in SOITS (AGP Rs.10,000/-)	Dr. B.Rupini	28.10.2017
02.03.2020	Promotion to the post of Professor in SOJNMS (AGP Rs.10,000/-)	Dr. Kiron Bansal	30.06.2016
02.03.2020	Promotion to the post of Professor in School of Sciences (AGP Rs.10,000/-)	Dr. Benidhar Deshmukh	08.09.2016
02.03.2020	Promotion to the post of Professor in SOS (AGP Rs.10,000/-)	Dr. Meenal Mishra	01.09.2016
02.03.2020	Promotion to the post of Professor in SOCIS (AGP Rs.10,000/-)	Dr. Pachigolla Venkata Suresh	30.06.2017
02.03.2020	Promotion to the post of Professor in SOCIS (AGP Rs.10,000/-)	Dr. Venkata Subrahmanyam Vampugani	30.09.2017
02.03.2020	Promotion to the post of Associate Professor in SOCIS (AGP Rs.9,000/-)	Sh.Mangala Prasad Mishra	01.01.2018

BM 139.10.2 The Board confirmed this Item for implementation and directed that Promotion Orders be issued accordingly. The Board directed to issue the Part-Minutes in this regard.

ITEM NO. 11 TO CONSIDER THE CHARGESHEET AGAINST DR. B RAJAGOPAL, REGIONAL DIRECTOR, IGNOU IN PURSUANCE TO DIRECTION OF BOARD OF MANAGEMENT AT ITS 137TH MEETING

BM 139.11.1 The Item was taken up for consideration. It was informed that the

Board of Management in its 137th meeting held on 16.10.2019 while considering the reports of various committees constituted from time to time against Dr. B. Rajagopal on the basis of the complaints received from staff of the respective Regional Centres where he has been posted, directed that a Charge sheet against Dr. B. Rajagopal, Regional Director be placed before the Board in next meeting.

BM 139.11.2 The Board approved the draft Chargesheet under Rule 11 of the Central Civil Services (Classification, Control & Appeal) Rules, 1965 against Dr. B. Rajagopal with direction for issuance of the same.

The Board further directed that ATR of earlier pending issues/matters if any, must also be brought to the notice of the BOM in future.

ITEM NO. 12 **TO CONSIDER THE RELEVANT RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE WORKS COMMITTEE, STANDING COMMITTEE OF THE BOM MADE IN ITS 74TH MEETING HELD ON 27.02.2020**

BM 139.12.1 As per the BOM decision (vide its 98th meeting held on 14.01.2009 vide Resolution No.98.5.2), the delegation of financial powers with the Works Committee is upto Rs.5 crores. In view of this, the brief of the following matters which were taken up in 74th meeting of the Works Committee are placed before the Board of Management for consideration and approval being a statutory requirement:

WC 74.4: The Govt. of Gujrat has allotted 2.0 acres of land free of cost in year 2013 for construction of Regional Centre building through CPWD at Rajkot. The CPWD has submitted the estimate cost of Rs.904.24 lakhs. The estimates have been scrutinized by CMD and scrutinized estimated cost of the proposal is Rs.877.42 lakhs (i/c 3% contingencies and 4.25% of EPF & ESI cost). The proposal is under consideration if Ministry approves for HEFA loan. The proposed drawings and estimates was considered and approved by Works Committee.

WC 74.5: The municipal corporation of Pune has allotted the land of 1.83 acres in Balewadi at a cost of Rs.3.50 cr. on lease for 30 years in 2013. Based on the recommendation of sub-committee, CPWD has submitted a draft estimate amounting to

Rs.13,60,07,000/- earlier and further revised estimate based on DPAR 2019 for an amount of Rs.18,53,92,857/- i.e. including 21% enhancement on DPAR rates submitted earlier. On clarification from CMD, CPWD has forwarded modified cost estimate through Regional Director, RC, Pune by revising the cost index 2% over DPAR 2019 and other electrical items. The estimated cost provided by CPWD is Rs.1502.37 lakhs. The estimate has been scrutinized by CMD and provision of television sets has been deleted from the proposed estimate and the corrected estimated cost comes to Rs. 1496.74 lakhs (Civil Rs.1011.07 lakhs + electrical Rs.485.67 lakhs) including 2% cost index over DPAR rates, 3% contingencies, 3.125% EPF, 1.125% ESI and 1% labour cess).

The proposal is under consideration of Ministry for HEFA loan. The Works Committee considered and approved the revised estimates for Rs.1496.74 lakhs based on DPAR.

WC 74.6: The Govt. of Haryana allotted land measuring 6393.60 sqmt. at Karnal for construction of Regional Centre building in December 2007 @4.41 crores. Further, HUDA mentioned the area as 7235.45 sqmt. as per zoning plan, instead of 6393.60 sqmt. The difference of cost demanded by Estate Officer HUDA was also paid and HUDA gave the formal possession of land on 3.10.2011. The project was earlier conceptualized by M/s RITES Ltd., however, due to inaction of M/s RITES Ltd. the revalidation charges of drawings period has over causing unnecessary loss to IGNOU. Thereafter, the work was assigned to CPWD and the MOU was signed on 23.11.2016. The matter was taken up with the Chief Minister of Haryana for revalidation of drawings and to extend the time limit for taking up the construction activities. The Govt. of Haryana revised the policy and asked to deposit an amount of Rs.73.91 lakhs for extending the time period up to December 2020 to complete the building. CPWD submitted the revised estimate for construction of basement and ground+2 floor @ 40.48 crores. Later, the Competent Authority had suggested to go only for ground floor construction without basement. In consultation with CPWD and HUDA officials, the estimate has been revised to 13.49 crores for construction of ground floor only.

The scrutinized estimate of Rs.13,49,65,300/- was considered and approved by the Works Committee.

BM 139.12.2

The Board considered and approved the proposals under WC74.4, 74.5 and 74.6.

ITEM NO. 13 TO APPRAISE THE CURRENT STATUS OF LAND BUILDINGS AT VARIOUS IGNOU REGIONAL CENTRES

BM 139.13.1 The Board noted the current status of the details of Regional Centres land and construction status of buildings at various Regional Centres. The Board observed that measuring unit of land vis-à-vis cost of construction should be common at all places viz., acres, sqmt. etc. The Board authorized the Vice Chancellor to take appropriate action in planning and monitoring construction & infrastructure development activities.

ITEM NO. 14 TO CONSIDER AND APPROVE OUTSOURCING FOR THE CONDUCT OF WRITTEN EXAMINATIONS FOR THE POSTS OF ASST. REGISTRAR, SECURITY OFFICER AND JUNIOR ASSISTANT-CUM-TYPIST THROUGH NTA

BM 139.14.1 The Board considered and approved the proposal of outsourcing for the conduct of written examinations for the posts of Assistant Registrar, Security Officer and Junior Assistant-cum-Typist through National Testing Agency (NTA), being an Organization under MHRD.

ITEM NO. 15 TO CONSIDER THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE REPORT SUBMITTED BY THE HON'BLE JUSTICE V. B. GUPTA (RETD.) ON THE "COMPREHENSIVE INQUIRY ON THE FUNCTIONING OF THE CMD, IGNOU AND THE RESPONSE OF THE CPO, CMD THEREON

BM 139.15.1 The Board was informed that the Inquiry Report submitted by Hon'ble Justice V B Gupta, retired Judge of High Court on comprehensive enquiry conducted in the functioning of Construction and Maintenance Division (CMD) was placed before the Board of Management in its 130th meeting held on 8.9.2018. The Board had asked to examine the Report and submit the observations before the Board for consideration. Accordingly, as recommended by the Board, the Gist of the Report submitted by Hon'ble V.B. Guprta was prepared and placed before the Board in its 131st meeting held on 22.12.2018. The Board directed that a copy of the Report be given to the concerned official for his response and also directed that a Committee be constituted to prepare a comparative statement by including the recommendations of the report and the response of the concerned official. It was further informed that a Committee was constituted under the

Chairmanship of Prof. R.R. Kanhere, PVC to prepare a Comparative Statement on the basis of the recommendations of the report submitted by Justice V.B. Gupta on the functioning of CMD and the response of the concerned official.

The Committee prepared a Report alongwith Comparative Statement which was placed before the Board for consideration. The Board noted that the Committee in its report has pointed out that out of total 103 issues raised by the Enquiry Judge in its Report, 42 belong to Electrical and remaining 61 belong to Civil Work. The Committee has concluded that ‘major blame lies at the shoulder of Shri Sudhir Reddy, CPO’. The CPO, CMD has given his response on the issues raised by the Enquiry Judge, however no response has been given on 10 issues while on another 10 issues he has mentioned that “these issues are prior to assumption of his charge”.

BM 139.15.2 The Board after detailed deliberations, directed to initiate the disciplinary proceeding against Shri Sudhir Reddy, CPO I/c, CMD.

ITEM NO. 16 **TO CONSIDER THE UTILISATION OF GRANTS RECEIVED UNDER SCHEDULED CASTE SUB-PLAN (SCSP) AND TRIBAL SUB-PLAN (TSP)**

BM 139.16.1 The Item was taken up for consideration. The Chairperson informed that there is a correction in the agenda, since the University has sent the letter to Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment for requesting financial assistance for fee waiver in respect of Physically challenged learners and not in respect of SC/STs, as reported in the Agenda. The Board was informed that University has been earmarking 22.5% of the grants received towards benefit to SC/ST students in the form of fee exemption as per the policy of the University from time to time. Before the academic year 2015, the SC & ST students were given fee concession by their respective state Govts., after verification of their documents by IGNOU. The scheme of extending the benefit to SC and ST students under SCSP and TSP was started by the University in 2015-16 by reimbursing the fee paid by student. The policy was again revised in 2017 and decided to provide full fee exemption to the SC/ST students taking admission in the identified academic programmes. Over the years, the number of academic programmes covered under the scheme has increased from 6 in 2015-16 to 128 in 2019-20 which resulted in the increase in total number of SC/ST students from about 85000 in 2015-16 to 2.25

lakhs in 2019-20.

The Board was further informed that from the year 2015 to 2018, the University provided fee exemption to all the eligible SC/ST candidates, as there was adequate financial grant made available. However, in the year 2018-19, the University spent Rs.11.46 crore in excess of the grants received and also in the last two years the University has been burdened with a net shortfall of Rs.53.62 crores on account of waiver of fee for SC/ST students. Keeping in view the increasing trend in admissions of SC/ST students over the years, it may be presumed that the financial liability of the University in the next three academic year will remain in the range of Rs.60-65 crores annually, if the present system of fee waiver is continued and therefore, the University may not be able to sustain the scheme unless adequate financial support is provided.

BM 139.16.2 After detailed deliberations, it was decided to review the Direct Benefit Scheme, rationalize the number of courses and to request the concerned Ministries to support the fee waiver scheme.

ITEM NO.17 **TO CONSIDER THE REPORT OF THE INQUIRY COMMITTEE CONSTITUTED TO EXAMINE COMPLETE FAILURE OF POWER SUPPLY WHEN THE UNIVERSITY EXAMS WERE GOING ON AND OTHER RELATED ISSUES**

BM 139.17.1 The Chairman apprised the Board that a Committee was constituted to examine the following:

- (i) the complete failure of power supply when the University exams were going on
- (ii) chronologically the movement of the files related to tender in outsourcing of the work to M/s. AEE Engineer & Contractors
- (iii) find out the reason behind and the responsibility for not having been able to complete the task of issue of tender within the prescribed time limit.

The Committee submitted its Report alongwith the summary of comments received from SED, F&A Division and CMD and response of Er. U.P. Sharma, EE (Elect.), CMD.

BM 139.17.2 The Board deliberated upon the report of the Committee. The Board decided that copy of the report be sent to Shri U.P. Sharma for giving his response.

ITEM NO. 18 TO RATIFY THE ACTION TAKEN BY THE VICE CHANCELLOR IN (I) PLACING ER. K K BHAT, REGIONAL DIRECTOR, REGIONAL CENTRE JAMMU UNDER SUSPENSION, AND (II) ISSUING CHARGESHEET TO HIM, FOR FAILING TO PERFORM HIS DUTIES IN THE CONDUCT OF THE TERM END EXAMINATION DECEMBER 2019 SMOOTHLY IN THE JAMMU REGION

BM 139.18.1

The Item was taken up for consideration. It was informed that the University had received some complaints regarding conduct of December 2019 Term End Examinations at Regional Centre-Jammu and leakage of question papers of B.Ed. Exams (BES-128(S) and BES-129(S) held on 7th and 8th January 2020. After the matter was examined, prima facie it appeared that Shri Kuldeep Kumar Bhat, Regional Director, Regional Centre, Jammu had failed to perform his overall duties in the process of conducting and monitoring of the Term End Examination December 2019 and B.Ed Examination in January 2020 smoothly in the Jammu Region. Therefore, Shri Kuldeep Kumar Bhat was placed under suspension with effect from 09.01.2020 till further orders vide Order dated 09.01.2020, in exercise of the powers conferred to the Vice Chancellor under Clause (1) of Statute 19 of the IGNOU Act read with Sub-Rule (1) of Rule 10 of the Central Civil Services (Classification, Control & Appeal) Rules 1965. He was attached to Regional Services Division with his headquarters to be New Delhi.

The Board was further informed that a Fact Finding Committee under the Chairpersonship of Prof. RR Kanhere, Pro-Vice Chancellor and Member, BOM was constituted to investigate the whole matter. In its Report, the Committee has observed slackness on the part of Shri K K Bhat, RD, RC Jammu. Accordingly, on the basis of the Report of the Committee, a Chargesheet has been issued to Shri Kuldeep Kumar Bhat, vide Memorandum No.IG/TA/1/229/95/ Vol.IV/6552 dated 05.03.2020. In response to the above Chargesheet Shri Bhat has submitted his reply vide his letter dt. 13.3.2020 and has denied all charges levied against him.

BM 139.18.2

The matter was discussed in detail. After detailed deliberations, the Board ratified the action taken by the Vice Chancellor in placing Shri K K Bhat under suspension and issuing chargesheet. The Board then decided as under:

- (1) To initiate disciplinary proceedings for major penalty under

Rule 14 of the Central Civil Services (Classification, Control and Appeal) Rule, 1965 read with powers conferred by Statute 2(5) of the statutes of IGNOU against Er. K.K. Bhat, Regional Director, Regional Centre Jammu and appoint an Inquiry Officer and Presenting Officer for the same.

- (2) The suspension of Er. K.K. Bhat be revoked with immediate effect
- (3) Er. K.K. Bhat will remain posted at the Regional Services Division at Headquarters in Delhi.

BM 139.18.3 The Board authorized to issue the Part-Minutes in this regard for taking further necessary action.

ITEM NO. 19 **TO CONSIDER THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE CONSTITUTED BY THE VICE CHANCELLOR TO PREPARE RELEVANT DETAILS W.R.T. VIGILANCE SECTION, MHRD LETTER NO. 13012/1/2019-VIG. RELATED TO DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDINGS AGAINST VARIOUS OFFICIALS IN CONNECTION WITH APPOINTMENT OF DR. ANITA PRIYADARSHINI, FORMER JOINT DIRECTOR, NIOS & PRESENTLY ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR, STRIDE, IGNOU AS PROJECT DIRECTOR, DEPSSA AND READER, STRIDE, IGNOU**

BM 139.19.1 The Board was informed that the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) vide O.M. No 012/EDN/109/404979 dated 02.01.2019 had advised CVO, MHRD to carry out detailed investigation into the allegations relating to irregularity in appointment of Dr. Anita Priyadarshini as Director, DEPSSA and Reader STRIDE at IGNOU. Accordingly, an Enquiry was conducted by MHRD, the report of which was forwarded by MHRD to the CVC for advice in the matter. In reply CVC vide O.M. No. 012/EDN/109/431065 & 430843 both dated 30.08.2019 informed that the case has been examined in detail by the Central Vigilance Commission and accordingly vide letter F.No. 13012/1/2019-Vig. dated 6.9.2019 ,the Vigilance Section, MHRD had advised CVO, IGNOU to enquire into all aspects relating to irregularity in appointment of Dr. Anita Priyadarshini at IGNOU in compliance of CVC's advise in time bound manner and furnish report/ First Stage Advice urgently. It was further informed that the Vice Chancellor had constituted a Committee to prepare the relevant details with respect to the letter of MHRD F.No. 13012/1/2019-Vig. dated 6th September 2019. The

Report of the Committee was placed before the Board of Management at its 137th meeting held on 16.10.2019. The Board directed that the detailed report on the issues raised by the CVC in respect of the selection process for the post of Project Director, DEP-SSA be submitted to CVC. The Board authorized the Vice Chancellor/ Chairman, BOM to submit the report to CVC on the matter.

Accordingly, the Committee examined the whole issue again and noted that the issue is a complex one, especially due to the fact that the issue has been referred in the Writ petitions in Hon'ble High Court of Delhi, as well as MHRD's Internal Complaints Committee Report. The Report of the Committee alongwith a comparative statement on advice of the CVC vis-a-vis. observations of the Committee were placed before the Board for its consideration.

The Board was further informed that the report of the committee alongwith comments of the Chief Vigilance Officer (CVO), IGNOU were forwarded to the MHRD vide letter F.No. IG/Vig./DEP-SSA/306/12/632, dated 26.12.2019 and 09.01.2020. In response, vide their letter D.O. No. 13012/1/2019-Vig., dated 05.02.2020, the Chief Vigilance Officer, MHRD informed that the report of the Committee and comments of CVO, IGNOU have been examined and it is seen that the report of three member Committee as well as comments of CVO are inconclusive and requested that the matter may be re-examined and the proposal alongwith considered views of the Competent Authority may be furnished to enable MHRD to obtain the advice of the Commission. The CVO, IGNOU vide letter dated 21st February 2020 also submitted the action taken report to the Secretary, CVC. The CVO, MHRD vide letter dated 03.03.2020 requested to expedite the matter and forward the proposal alongwith considered view of the Competent Authority to MHRD. In response, Vice Chancellor, IGNOU vide letter F.No. IG/ACD/MHRD-Vig./2019/6586, dated 11.03.2020 informed the CVO, MHRD that the matter is being placed before the Board of Management in its forthcoming meeting being held on 17.03.2020. The CVO, MHRD vide letter dated 11.03.2020 requested the University that a conclusive decision on all the issues raised by the CVC may be taken in BOM in its meeting being held on 17.3.2020 to enable to furnish First Stage Advice as desired by the Commission. The Ministry also requested the members of the Board to expedite the matter.

BM 139.19.2 The matter was discussed in detail. After detailed deliberations, the pointwise recommendations of the Board on each issue raised by the CVC are as under:

BM 139.19.2(i) **Issue 1: Examine the role of Standing Screening Committee for the post of Project Director, DEP SSA and seek first stage advice of the Commission in respect of Members and Chairman of Standing Screening Committee within a month.**

The Board was informed that the members of the Standing Screening Committee were as under:

Dr D K Choudhary, Pro-VC, IGNOU - Chairperson
Prof. A K Agarwal, SOHS, IGNOU - Member
Prof. D Gopal, SOSS, IGNOU - Member
Prof. MSS Raju, Dir, ACD, IGNOU - Convenor

The Standing Screening Committee which met on 9.02.2010 to screen the applications had noted that *“none of the candidate fulfils the requirement of essential qualifications/specialization and experience for the post. Therefore, the Committee recommended that the post may be re-advertised”*. However, when the recommendations were submitted to the then Vice-Chancellor for perusal and orders, the then Vice Chancellor noted that *“Pls. See the Selection Committee minutes of the last appointment (Dr. Jena’s appointment), this point of Senior Professor qualification was considered there also. We need to review the Screening Committee’s recommendations in the light of this. A meeting of the Screening Committee may be scheduled as early as possible”*. The Selection Committee on previous occasion in 2008 while appointing the previous Project Director had also lowered the eligibility conditions for the post, and the official selected was a Deputy Director/Regional Director in Reader’s scale also not meeting the eligibility conditions.

Thus, on the direction of the then Vice Chancellor and as per precedence of relaxing eligibility conditions on previous occasion, the standing screening committee relaxed the qualifications and shortlisted 05 candidates including Dr Anita Priyadarshini, fulfilling the revised qualifications and recommended to be invited for interview.

In view of above, the Board noted that “the standing screening

committee had in its Minutes had recommended that the post may be re-advertised, however, on the direction of the then Vice-Chancellor, the eligibility conditions of the post were lowered in the light of similar such relaxation recommended by the Selection Committee in appointing the previous Project Director. Thus, it was on the direction of the then Vice Chancellor that the standing screening committee relaxed the qualifications, and shortlisted the candidates which included the name of Dr Anita Priyadarshini. Therefore, the Standing Screening Committee did not have any direct role in the matter.

In view of above, the Board decided not to proceed further on this issue and resolved to request CVO, MHRD to request CVC to close this issue.

BM 139.19.2(ii) Issue 2: Examine the role of Chairman and all members of the Selection Committee for the post of Project Director, DEP SSA and seek first stage advice in respect of these officers within a month.

The Board was informed that following were the members of the Selection Committee who attended the meeting:

Prof V N Rajashekharan Pillai, VC, IGNOU	- Chairperson
Prof. K R Srivathsan, Pro-VC, IGNOU	- Member
Shri Sunil Kumar, Joint Secretary, HE, MHRD	- Member
Prof. O S Dewal, Prof (retd), NCERT	- Member
Prof. N K Ambasht, former Chairman, NIOS	- Member
Shri Pramod Kumar Tiwari, Director, MHRD	- Member

None of the aforementioned Officials are employees of the University. Prof VN Rajasekharan Pillai, the then Vice Chancellor and Chairperson of the Selection Committee, and Prof K R Srivathsan, the then Pro-Vice Chancellor and a member of the Selection Committee have demitted office after completing their term in 2011. Rest of the members were senior academicians (both retired) or officials of MHRD.

The Board observed that Prof. V N Rajasekharan Pillai, the then Vice Chancellor, IGNOU was the Chairman of Selection Committees on both the occasions of selection of Project Director, DEP-SSA (in 2008 and 2010) when eligibility conditions were relaxed. Thus, being the then VC was aware of the relaxed

eligibility conditions and the Selection Committee should not have proceeded further in view of the same. Therefore, the Board agreed with the observations of the CVC and directed to seek first stage advice in respect of Members of the Selection Committee. Since the then VC and Pro-VC have demitted Office in 2011 and none of the members is an IGNOU employee.

The Board, therefore, decided to refer the matter to CVO, Ministry of HRD for further directions.

BM 139.19.2(iii) Issue 3: Examine as to whether Dr. Anita Priyadarshini was meeting the requirement of experience for the post of Reader, STRIDE; the role of Selection Committee as to why they went ahead with selection process in the absence of Visitor's nominee and submit the report in this regard to this Ministry within a month.

The Board was informed that at the time of appointment of Dr Anita Priyadarshini in IGNOU as Reader in STRIDE, two Readers' posts were advertised (UR-1, ST-1). Under UR category, Dr. Anita Priyadarshini was selected and under ST category 'None found Suitable' was recorded in the Minutes.

The advertisement (issued in February/March 2010) for the post of Reader, STRIDE carried a grade pay of Rs. 8000/- in PB-III with eligibility conditions as mentioned in advertisement.

At the time of application and interview for Reader position, Dr. Anita Priyadarshini was serving as Joint Director (Academic) in the PB-4 with Grade pay of Rs. 8700/- with PhD and more than 20 years of experience as Academic staff (including Joint Director (Academic), Deputy Director (academic), Tutor, History in NIOS, and Director, State Resource Centre for Adult education, Jaipur). National Institute of Open Schooling is an ODL Institution under MHRD involved with design and development of SLM, training packages, preparation of audio-video material, educational administration, Research etc. at School education level. Thus, Dr Anita Priyadarshini was meeting the essential requirements of the post of Reader, STRIDE. The Screening Committee that screened applications at STRIDE as well as Standing Screening Committee, both shortlisted her for inviting for interview.

A total of twenty Six candidates (22 UR and 04 STs) were called

for interview, out of which 14 candidates (UR-12 and ST-2) attended the interview for the 02 positions (UR-01 and ST-01). The Committee minutes state that” the committee interviewed the candidates and taking into account their educational qualifications, experience and performance in the interview, recommended Dr Anita Priyadarshini to the post of Reader STRIDE under Un reserved category and 03 candidates were kept under waitlist. Under ST category wherein only 02 candidates had attended the interview, ‘None found suitable’ was recorded in the Minutes.

On the issue of absence of Visitor’s nominee, the Board observed that the constitution of Selection Committee for Teaching posts is as per Statute 12 under IGNOU Act 1985, which provides for a nominee of Visitor in the Selection Committee. Regarding the quorum, sub-clause 3 of Statute 12 provides as under:

“quorum for a meeting of a Selection Committee shall be four, which will include at least two experts in the case of the Selection Committee mentioned in Sub-clause (2)(i) of this Statute”.

Therefore, if Visitor’s nominee was unable to attend the selection Committee in the present case, and which has happened on previous occasions too, it may not make the selection committee recommendations infructuous. The Board was also informed that the same Selection Committee on that day conducted interviews for Lecturers’ post in STRIDE and one OBC candidate, one SC candidate and one UR candidate was selected. There was no differentiation in the selection procedure for Reader/Lecturer posts. Therefore, it was not Dr Anita Priyadarshini alone but three more candidates who were selected in STRIDE by the same selection Committee (without Visitor’s nominee).

In view of above, the Board decided not to proceed further on this issue and resolved to request CVO, MHRD to request CVC to close this issue.

BM 139.19.2(iv) Issue 4: Identify the officials who allowed Dr Anita Priyadarshini to join at the post of Reader without proper relieving order from NIOS; acceptance of Technical resignation by NIOS; pending Charge sheet for major penalty at NIOS and even before issue of appointment order by IGNOU, and submit the report within one month.

The Board was informed that the application of Dr Anita

Priyadarshini for the post of Reader was forwarded by NIOS, her parent cadre. The interview for the post of Reader in STRIDE, IGNOU was held on 4th June 2011 and the chargesheet by NIOS was issued by NIOS on 18.7.2011 (after convening of selection Committee). The recommendations of the Selection Committee (kept in sealed envelope) and opened before Board of Management in its 109th meeting held on 7th August 2011. The offer of appointment letter to her was issued on 4th October 2011.

Post selection, the Minutes were processed and the offer of appointment letter to her was issued on 4th October 2011. Dr Anita Priyadarshini submitted her joining to STRIDE, on 05.11.2011, which was forwarded to ACD. The Director, ACD vide letter dated 6.10.2011 stipulated that *“her appointment will be subject to production of the medical certificate of fitness, original certificates of educational qualifications and date of birth and order of relief from the institution/organization where she is presently employed. Therefore, she was advised to submit the same so as to enable ACD to process her joining report.”* She was also informed *“that her joining will be effective from the date of medical certificate and date of her relief in her parent Office, i.e. NIOS since she is a permanent employee of NIOS as seen from her application submitted for appointment to the post of Reader, Distance Education, STRIDE duly forwarded by the NIOS”*. She was again advised vide letter dated 11.10.2011 *“to produce the original medical certificate and a formal order of relief from NIOS, alongwith other documents mentioned under clause 7 of offer letter so that she could be allowed to join the post of Reader.”* The file was processed and the then Director, ACD *“for orders whether Dr Anita Priyadarshini could be allowed to join in the post from 05.10.2011 subject to the condition of producing proper relieving order from NIOS at the earliest”*. The then Pro-VC and acting Vice Chancellor, Prof Latha Pillai, approved the joining subject to the condition of producing proper relieving from NIOS at the earliest. Accordingly, IGNOU vide its Office Order dated 13th October 2011 allowed her to join as Reader STRIDE provisionally subject to production of a proper relieving Order from NIOS at the earliest but not later than one month from 13.10.2011. This was again reiterated by ACD’s letter dated 02.11.2020.

The Board was further informed that the Hon’ble High Court of Delhi (WPC 7853 of 2011) in its Order 4.11.2011 had stayed the letter dated 12.10.2011 (of NIOS) as well as asked her to approach

IGNOU for extension of time to furnish a proper relieving order from NIOS. In the final Orders, Hon'ble High Court of Delhi (C) 7853/2011 dated 26.11.2011 ordered that Dr Anita Priyadarshini stands employed on merit in IGNOU w.e.f. 05.10.2011. Accordingly, technical resignation was accepted by NIOS and she was relieved by NIOS w.e.f. 05.10.2011.

The Board noted that the then Pro-VC, Dr Latha Pillai, who accepted the joining is not an IGNOU employee, has since demitted office in 2011. The Board therefore decided to refer the matter to CVO, Ministry of HRD for further directions.

BM 139.19.2(v) Issue 5: Examine the role of Prof MS Senam Raju, the then Director (ACD) IGNOU in not informing the Vice Chancellor and the BOM regarding pending disciplinary proceedings against Dr Anita Priyadarshini at the time of obtaining approval of BOM for her selection and appointment to the post of Reader and to submit proposal for seeking first stage advice of the Commission in his case within a month.

The Board noted the observations of the committee that while forwarding the application for Reader's position, the NIOS had not mentioned about any pending disciplinary proceedings against Dr Anita Priyadarshini. As stated above, the interview for the post of Reader in STRIDE, IGNOU was held on 4th June 2011 and the chargesheet was issued by NIOS on 18.7.2011 (after convening of selection Committee). The recommendations of the Selection Committee (kept in confidential sealed envelope) were opened before Board of Management and approved by it in its 109th meeting held on 7th August 2011 and Prof MSS Raju as Director, ACD did not have information about selection or otherwise of the candidate till then.

The offer of appointment letter to her was issued on 4th October 2011. Post selection, the Minutes were processed and the offer of appointment letter to her was issued on 4th October 2011. Dr Anita Priyadarshini submitted her joining to STRIDE, on 05.11.2011, which was forwarded to ACD. The Director, ACD vide letter dated 6.10.2011 stipulated that *"her appointment will be subject to production of the medical certificate of fitness, original certificates of educational qualifications and date of birth and order of relief from the institution/organization where she is presently employed. Therefore, she was advised to submit the same so as to enable ACD*

to process her joining report.” She was also informed “that her joining will be effective from the date of medical certificate and date of her relief in her parent Office, i.e. NIOS since she is a permanent employee of NIOS as seen from her application submitted for appointment to the post of Reader, Distance Education, STRIDE duly forwarded by the NIOS”. She was again advised vide letter dated 11.10.2011 “to produce the original medical certificate and a formal order of relief from NIOS, alongwith other documents mentioned under clause 7 of offer letter so that she could be allowed to join the post of Reader.” The file was processed and the then Director, ACD “for orders whether Dr Anita Priyadarshini could be allowed to join in the post from 05.10.2011 subject to the condition of producing proper relieving order from NIOS at the earliest”. The then Pro-VC and acting Vice Chancellor, Prof Latha Pillai, approved the joining subject to the condition of producing proper relieving from NIOS at the earliest. Accordingly, IGNOU vide its Office Order dated 13th October 2011 allowed her to join as Reader STRIDE provisionally subject to production of a proper relieving Order from NIOS at the earliest but not later than one month from 13.10.2011. This was again reiterated by ACD’s letter dated 02.11.2020.

As already stated above, in pursuance with Orders of the Hon’ble High Court of Delhi in Writ Petition WP(C) 7853/2011 that Dr Anita Priyadarshini was given time to submit relieving order from NIOS and that technical resignation was granted to Dr. Anita Priyadarshini w.e.f. 05.10.2011 by NIOS vide its letter dated 15.01.2014.

In view of above, the Board decided not to proceed further on this issue and resolved to request CVO, MHRD to request CVC to close this issue.

BM 139.19.2(vi) Issue 6: To initiate major penalty proceedings against Dr Anita Priyadarshini for misconduct mentioned in Article of Charge – II of charge sheet dated 18.07.2011 in consultation with NIOS.

The Board was informed that the issues have been discussed in detail before the Hon’ble High Court of Delhi in Writ Petition WP(C) 7853/2011, as well as in the Report of Inquiry conducted by the MHRD’s Internal Complaints Committee (ICC) against the then Chairman, NIOS for sexual harassment on the complaint filed by Dr. Anita Priyadarshini, which had also taken into account the issue of (not) accepting the technical resignation/delay in relieving

and the timing of the Chargesheet by NIOS against her. The Board was informed that MHRD's ICC in its report has opined that *“this disciplinary proceeding was malafide and the nature and quantum of punishment has to commensurate with the gravity of offence.”* In the report of ICC, it is stated that *“it is to be seen whether a routine act of pay fixation done wrongly, would warrant disciplinary action of the magnitude of major penalty under Rule 14 and that the alleged offence of wrong pay fixation was not even committed by Dr Priyadarshini - she was only a channel through whom the file passed.”*

The Board was also informed of the letter from Deputy Educational Adviser, MHRD, Dept. of School Education & Literacy dated 6th June 2013 to NIOS conveying the decision of Hon'ble HRM that *“ongoing disciplinary proceedings against Dr Anita Priyadarshini may not be pursued and no further action is called for in the matter”*.

The Board was also informed that when NIOS vide its letter dated 16.01.2014 forwarded the charge –II of the disciplinary proceedings on pay fixation to IGNOU, IGNOU had examined the matter and obtained Legal Opinion and based upon this, a communication dated 04.04.2016 was sent from IGNOU to MHRD stating that IGNOU cannot proceed with disciplinary proceedings against Dr. Anita Priyadarshini and that this matter is being closed.

The Board after detailed deliberation decided that since the Chargesheet has already been issued and her present place of employment is IGNOU, the IGNOU may proceed further and conclude the disciplinary proceedings in consultation with NIOS as advised by CVC.

BM 139.19.2(vii) General observation: The Recruitment Rules in IGNOU are vague and advised to take necessary action for reviewing the recruitment Rules and to put in place an SOP for the recruitment process for various posts in IGNOU.

The Board noted that being a National Open University enacted by an Act of Parliament, the recruitment to Teaching and Academic positions at the University is conducted in accordance with the University Grants Commission Regulations on Minimum Qualifications for Appointment of Teachers and Other Academic Staff in Universities and Colleges and Measures for the Maintenance of Standards in Higher Education, issued by UGC from time to time as well as by following Govt of India

guidelines/norms on reservations, relaxations, etc. Therefore, separate Recruitment and Promotional Rules are not required.

The Board directed to follow the UGC Regulations issued from time to time for appointment of teaching and academic positions in the University.

BM 139.19.3 The Board approved as above and keeping in view the urgency of the matter directed to issue the Part-Minutes in this regard.

ITEM NO. 20 TO CONSIDER THE MATTER RELATED TO ALLEGATION AND COUNTER ALLEGATION MADE BY DR. S. NEETHIRAJAN, REGIONAL DIRECTOR AND SHRI S. SAUNAND, ASSISTANT REGIONAL DIRECTOR, REGIONAL CENTRE - BHAGALPUR AGAINST EACH OTHER AS WELL AS MISUSE OF PUBLIC MONEY AND MANIPULATION OF TTA BILLS BY DR S J NEETHIRAJAN

BM 139.20.1 The Board was informed that a Committee was constituted to examine the validity of allegation and counter allegation made by Dr. S. Neethirajan, Regional Director and Shri S. Saunand, Assistant Regional Director, Regional Centre - Bhagalpur against each other. The matter was placed before the Board of Management at its 134th meeting held on 04.05.2019 and the Board directed that the matter be sent to Chief Vigilance Officer (CVO) IGNOU for examination. The matter was referred to CVO, and the CVO has observed that “all the allegations made by both the Officials against each other are administrative in nature. However, regarding financial irregularities, Vigilance Cell sought details of advances taken and their settlement in relation of Dr S J Neethirajan, RD, RC Bhagalpur and Shri S Saunand, ARD RC Bhagalpur from RD, RC Bhagalpur. In response RD, RC Bhagalpur has informed that no pending advance/bills found in RC Bhagalpur.” Further as informed by the Regional Services Division “the recovery from Shri S Saunand, ARD has been initiated by the RC Pune for an amount of Rs 17,27,262 in 55 installments.”

BM 139.20.2 The Board after detailed deliberations, directed to seek the written explanation from Dr S J Neethirajan, and Shri S Saunand for all the issues narrated above and place the same in the next meeting of the Board.

ITEM NO.21 TO CONSIDER THE PROPOSAL TO DISCONTINUE AND SURRENDER 22 NUMBER OF WOLS OF NON-OPERATIONAL GYAN VANI (GV) 10 KW FM RADIO

STATIONS

BM 139.21.1 The Item was taken up for consideration. The Board was informed that keeping in view the audit concerns, the University is thinking to surrender 22 numbers of Wireless Operating Licenses of the GC stations wherever Transmitters could not be replaced immediately. The issue was discussed in detail. The Board suggested that requirements of financial assistance be placed before the Ministry.

ITEM NO.22 **TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE 67TH MEETING OF THE PURCHASE COMMITTEE, A STANDING COMMITTEE OF THE BOARD OF MANAGEMENT HELD ON 16.03.2020**

BM 139.22.1 The Board ratified the recommendations of the Purchase Committee made in its 67th meeting held on 16.03.2020 (**Appendix 4**).

ITEM NO.23 (1) **TO RATIFY THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE STUDENT SERVICES COMMITTEE MADE AT ITS 46TH MEETING HELD ON 24.10.2019; AND**
(2) **TO CONSIDER THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE STUDENT SERVICES COMMITTEE MADE IN ITS 47TH MEETING HELD ON 06.03.2020**

BM 139.23.1 The Board ratified the recommendations of the Student Services Committee, a Standing Committee of the BOM made at its 46th meeting held on 24.10.2019 & 47th meeting held on 06.03.2020. Further, the Board approved the recommendations of the 47th meeting of SSC.

ITEM NO. 24 **TO NOTE FOR INFORMATION THE MATTER PERTAINING TO UGC GAZETTE NOTIFICATION DATED 17TH JANUARY 2020 PROVIDING EXEMPTION TO IGNOU UNDER UNIVERSITY GRANTS COMMISSION (ONLINE COURSES OR PROGRAMMES) REGULATIONS, 2018**

BM 139.24.1 The Board noted the University Grants Commission gazette notification dated 17th January 2020 (**Appendix 5**) which makes the following regulations to amend the University Grants Commission (Online Courses or Programmes) Regulations, 2018 in regulation 2, in sub-regulation (2), the following proviso shall be inserted, namely:-

“Provided that the University Grants Commission may, by

order, exempt the Indira Gandhi National Open University, a university established under the Indira Gandhi National Open University Act, 1985 (50 of 1985), from the application of these regulations, considering the objectives of the said Act”.

The Board was also apprised about the order of the Commission dt.17.03.2020 on the same (**Appendix 6**). The Board noted UGC Gazette dated 17.01.2020 and Commission order dt.17.03.2020.

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the Chair.

(Nageshwar Rao)
Chairman