

Confidential.

17th February, 47.

D.O. No. 28-Cont.

Dear Dr. Dutta,

1. I thank you for your D.O. No. 143, dated the 11th February. I am glad to learn that the sanction for Rs 12,000/- for the Statistics Department of my college will be forthcoming very soon.

2. It is very necessary that arrangements for filling up the vacancy in place of Mr. Ahmed Ali is made at an early date. We are actually carrying on our work with one man short in the Department of English which is hampering with the tutorial work in the different classes.

3. Regarding the transfer of Dr. Suresh Chandra Sen Gupta to this college I should tell you that this proposal if ever has been rejected by Government that must have been done on non-academic consideration. What I have told you in this connection I repeat, that for the teaching of Organic Chemistry I require here services of an Organic Chemist, which I am not getting in the person of Dr. Rakshit. He does not hold any qualification to teach Organic Chemistry. Compilation of a book in Organic Chemistry jointly with another person and particularly a book like the one referred to in your letter, which has been condemned by specialists in Organic Chemistry as one giving very wrong information to its readers, does not qualify Dr. Rakshit to take Organic Classes. When he joined Presidency College, I offered him Organic Chemistry class in the under-graduate Department which he said he would not be competent to conduct. The Post-Graduate Classes, can therefore by no means be entrusted to him. These are the observations from me who was once responsible to bring him into the Presidency College. He will be all right as a teacher for Under-graduate classes but not at all suitable for Post-graduate Department still less so in Organic Chemistry branch. I therefore fail to understand how you conclude that there is no reasonable ground in asking

for his transfer. I hope you will agree with me that the staff of the Presidency College should be such as would be able to inspire the students to undertake higher work. I have watched the work of Dr. Rakshit from close quarters for several years now and I am sorry to say he is not a teacher of that type for the Post Graduate Department. I should therefore request you once again to give effect to my suggestion and not to give up the proposal on non-academic consideration.

4. Although I received orders of leave granted to Mr. Mahalanobis, up to December and then about lending his services to the Government of India till June next the orders about officiating arrangements in the subsequent vacancy have not yet been communicated. There is also a case for a house allowance connected with the same question, where for reasons of temporary nature of the vacancy of the Post of the Principal, Presidency College and non-availability of a house within the distance limit mentioned about it I have asked for relaxing the condition relating to the distance limit for the present, orders regarding this also have not yet been issued. These are causing difficulties to me and therefore I requested you to please expedite the issue of the orders.

5. Yes, the T.A. bills referred to were for excursions in Chemistry for teachers who accompanied the excursions. Excursions are equivalent to Practical Classes. In the matter of the number of teachers accompanying an excursion the ordinary rule prescribed by the University namely one teacher for every 15 students in the B.Sc. Classes and one teacher for every 10 students for the Post-graduate classes is always followed. For Botany and Geology where excursions are taken for quite a long time, this same rule is in vogue. Moreover in consideration of probable accidents, illness etc. of some students on excursion, which may necessitate the removal of that student by a responsible officer, even in a small party of 10 or 15 students two teachers accompany. In taking out excursions in Chemistry this same rule had been followed. Our opinion is that the University rule mentioned above should be very strictly followed when taking out students in Excursions. The objection of Government, if any, must have been based on misapprehension, which should be immediately removed. If Government insist on restricting the number of teachers, going on each excursion to one, the position will be very unhelpful and will result in the stoppage of this

activity for which in the sessions following the present one, an enhanced grant of Rs 1,500/- has been sanctioned, for students alone. The sanction of money has always been provided to enable us to give effect to University regulations. In this case also there should not be any violation of the same principle. As one, who had been closely connected with college work, I expect you will understand these things much better and help us in carrying on our work in the way we should.

I expect I have now made the different points touched in your letter quite clear. If even now you feel the necessity of discussing any of these points, I shall only too glad to do. I should however request you to kindly expedite the matter.

Yours sincerely,



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