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**R E P O R T**  
**OF THE**  
**UNIVERSITY GRANTS COMMISSION**

*December 1953 — March 1957*

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**NEW DELHI**

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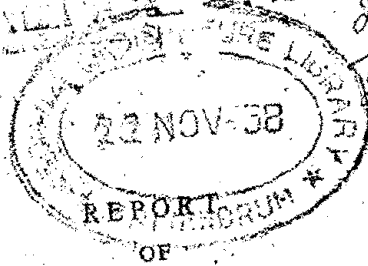
UNIVERSITY GRANTS COMMISSION

1958

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## THE UNIVERSITY GRANTS COMMISSION

*December 1953—March 1957*

The University Grants Commission was formally inaugurated at New Delhi, on 28th December, 1953 by Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, the Minister of Education and of Natural Resources & Scientific Research. Shri Jawaharlal Nehru, the Prime Minister, was also present and addressed the inaugural meeting. The functions of the Commission were stated to be:—

- (i) to advise Government on the allocation of grants-in-aid from public funds to Central Universities;
- (ii) to advise Government on the allocation of grants-in-aid to other Universities and institutions of higher learning whose case for such grants may be referred to the Commission by Government; and
- (iii) to advise the Universities and other institutions of higher learning in respect of any question referred by the Government to the Commission.

The University Grants Commission Act ( Act 3 of 1956 ) was passed by Parliament in March, 1956. The Act provided that "with effect from such date as the Central Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, appoint, there shall be established a Commission by the name of the University Grants Commission." The required notification was published by Government in November, 1956, and the University Grants Commission became a statutory body from the 5th of that month.

Though the University Grants Commission in its present form was thus officially established in November, 1956, it has been performing the functions with which it was charged, ever since it came into existence in December, 1953, by an executive order of the Government. It is, therefore, desirable that, though this first annual

report of the Commission to be presented to Parliament deals mostly with the activities of the Commission in 1956-57, it should also contain a general account of some of the facts that led to its establishment, the work it has done since its inception in 1953, and some of the problems it has had to deal with.

Ever since the establishment of the first modern Universities in 1857, the Government of India and the Provincial Governments adopted the practice of giving grants-in-aid to institutions imparting higher education in the country. Though the Universities were brought into being by Acts of Incorporation passed by the legislature, and the powers and composition of the University bodies were regulated and controlled by the State, the spread and development of education was left, in the main, to private enterprise. Government gave their moral support to, and exercised a general supervision over, the Universities, assisting and stimulating their growth with finances to meet their deficits or occasionally to promote a particular line of development. Practically all the actual teaching work of the Universities was done in autonomous colleges affiliated to the Universities. Apart from a few colleges established and run by Government themselves, where the entire finances were managed by Government, the institutions for higher education in India had to depend on private initiative and support and were financed mainly by income derived from student fees and any private benefactions and endowments that might be available from time to time. The Universities and Colleges, therefore, grew up as autonomous institutions within the limits of their administrative machinery and the powers conferred on the Universities by their Acts of Incorporation. They were free to develop their own resources and thus expand and improve their work. But in actual practice the Universities were not able to secure much financial support from private sources, and apart from fees paid by students they had to depend largely on Government grants which were not always readily forthcoming.

It has been the custom in India to treat education mainly as a provincial concern. The new Constitution of India provides for the continuation of that situation although it has, by Article 246, given to the Central Government the function of co-ordination and determination of standards in institutions for higher education or research

including scientific and technical institutions. Attempts at such co-ordination had, in fact, started as early as 1945 when the Government of India appointed a University Grants Committee of four members to advise the Government on grants to be paid to the Central Universities. With its limited personnel and circumscribed powers the Committee was not able to make any effective contribution to the development of University education and it ceased to exist in 1949. Meanwhile, after the attainment of independence, the Government of India appointed, in 1948, a University Education Commission under the Chairmanship of Dr. S. Radhakrishnan "to report on Indian University education and suggest improvements and extensions that may be desirable to suit present and future requirements of the country."

The University Education Commission was of the opinion that no University responsible for teaching and research in India could be made even passably efficient without the help of recurrent grants from the centre in addition to their existing resources. The University Education Commission, therefore, recommended the setting up of a Committee or Commission for allocating both recurrent and capital grants to Universities from the Centre. The University Education Commission took note of the efforts made by the Central and State (Provincial) Governments to assess the financial needs of the Universities and strongly recommended that the University Grants Committee of the Government of India be reconstituted on the general model of the University Grants Committee of the United Kingdom with a full-time Chairman and other members who were to be appointed from among outstanding educationists known for their wisdom and integrity. The Ministries of Finance and Education were also to be represented on this body.

Following the publication of the Report of the University Education Commission the Government of India proceeded to adopt more systematic measures for the co-ordination and determination of standards in Universities and proposed the establishment of a Central Council of University Education. A bill for the establishment of a Central Council of University Education was actually circulated to all State Governments and Universities and also to the Inter-University Board for eliciting opinion. After a series of

conferences and consultations the idea of setting up a Central Council of University Education was abandoned and the proposal for setting up a University Grants Commission on the lines of the recommendations of the Radhakrishnan Commission was placed before Parliament in 1954.

#### **Interim Commission**

While the Bill was under preparation, the Government of India, in 1952, issued a Resolution setting up an interim University Grants Commission to advise the Government on the allocation of grants-in-aid from public funds to the Central Universities and to the other Universities and institutions of higher learning whose case for grants might be referred to the Commission by Government. The Commission started functioning on 28th December, 1953, the date of its inauguration by the Education Minister.

Originally it consisted of the following members :—

- (1) Dr. Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar, Chairman.
- (2) Dr. A. L. Mudaliar, Vice-Chancellor, Madras University.
- (3) Acharya Narendra Deva, Vice-Chancellor, Banaras Hindu University.
- (4) Sir Navroji J. Wadia, Vice-Chancellor, Bombay University.
- (5) Dr. J.C. Ghosh, Vice-Chancellor, Calcutta University.
- (6) Dr. Zakir Husain, M.P., Vice-Chancellor, Aligarh Muslim University.
- (7) Pt. H. N. Kunzru, M.P.
- (8) Shri K. G. Saiyidain, Ministry of Education.
- (9) Shri K. R. K. Menon, Ministry of Finance.

Shri Samuel Mathai who was then the Secretary of the Inter-University Board was appointed Secretary of the Commission.

#### **Functions of the Commission**

The University Grants Commission Act which was finally passed by Parliament in 1956 sets forth the powers and functions of the Commission under Article 12 as follows :—

It shall be the general duty of the Commission to take, in consultation with the Universities or other bodies concerned, all such steps as it may think fit for the promotion and co-ordination

of University education and for the determination and maintenance of standards of teaching, examination and research in Universities, and for the purpose of performing its functions under this Act, the Commission may—

- (a) inquire into the financial needs of Universities ;
- (b) allocate and disburse, out of the Fund of the Commission, grants to Universities established or incorporated by or under a Central Act for the maintenance and development of such Universities or for any other general or specified purpose ;
- (c) allocate and disburse, out of the Fund of the Commission, such grants to other Universities as it may deem necessary for the development of such Universities or for any other general or specified purpose :

provided that in making any grant to any such University, the Commission shall give due consideration to the development of the University concerned, its financial needs, the standard attained by it and the national purposes which it may serve ;

- (d) recommend to any University the measures necessary for the improvement of University education and advise the University upon the action to be taken for the purpose of implementing such recommendation ;
- (e) advise the Central Government or any State Government on the allocation of any grants to Universities for any general or specified purpose out of the Consolidated Fund of India or the Consolidated Fund of the State, as the case may be ;
- (f) advise any authority, if such advice is asked for, on the establishment of a new University or on proposals connected with the expansion of the activities of any University ;
- (g) advise the Central Government or any State Government or University on any question which may be referred to the Commission by the Central Government or the State Government or the University, as the case may be ;



- (h) collect information on all such matters relating to University education in India and other countries as it thinks fit and make the same available to any University ;
- (i) require a University to furnish it with such information as may be needed relating to the financial position of the University or the studies in the various branches of learning undertaken in that University, together with all the rules and regulations relating to the standards of teaching and examination in that University respecting each of such branches of learning ;
- (j) perform such other functions as may be prescribed or as may be deemed necessary by the Commission for advancing the cause of higher education in India or as may be incidental or conducive to the discharge of the above functions.

#### **Chairman of the Commission**

The first Chairman of the Commission, Dr. Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar, held the post of Chairman along with that of Secretary to the Government of India in the Ministry of Natural Resources and Scientific Research. Dr. Bhatnagar died on 1st January, 1955. Shortly afterwards, Shri Humayun Kabir, then Secretary to the Government of India in the Ministry of Education, was appointed to act as Chairman of the Commission in addition to his own duties. Shri Kabir resigned on the 22nd of February, 1956. Pandit Hridaynath Kunzru, M.P., temporarily acted as Chairman until 28th August, 1956, when Shri C. D. Deshmukh, formerly Finance Minister of India, was appointed Chairman.

#### **Members of the Commission**

During this period there were the following changes in the membership of the Commission :—

- 6-12-1954 Shri M.V. Rangachari in place of Shri K.R.K. Menon.
- 26- 3-1955 Dr. John Matthai in place of Sir Navroji J. Wadia.
- 27- 8-1955 Prof. N.K. Sidhanta in place of Dr. J.C. Ghosh.
- 11-11-1955 Dr. C. P. Ramaswami Aiyar in place of Acharya Narendra Deva.

16-11-1955 Shri P. C. Bhattacharya in place of Shri M. V. Rangachari.

The Commission now consists of nine members appointed by the Central Government on the following basis :—

- (a) not more than three members from among the Vice-Chancellors of Universities ;
- (b) two members from among the officers of the Central Government to represent that Government ; and
- (c) the remaining number from among persons who are educationists of repute or who have obtained high academic distinctions.

One of the members of the Commission, not being an officer of the Central Government or a State Government is nominated by the Central Government as Chairman. The office of the Chairman is a whole-time and salaried one. Shri C.D. Deshmukh is the first whole-time Chairman of the University Grants Commission.

The membership of the Commission was as follows on March 31, 1957 :—

1. Shri C.D. Deshmukh, Chairman.
2. Dr. A.L. Mudaliar (Vice-Chancellor, Madras University).
3. Dr. Zakir Husain, M.P.
4. Pandit H.N. Kunzru, M.P.
5. Prof. N.K. Sidhanta (Vice-Chancellor, Calcutta University).
6. Dr. M.S. Thacker (Director of Scientific and Industrial Research).
7. Shri G. C. Chatterji (Vice-Chancellor, Rajputana University).
8. Shri K.G. Saiyidain (Ministry of Education).
9. Shri S. Ratnam (Ministry of Finance).

#### **Officers of the Commission**

For carrying out its functions the Commission depends on a small number of Officers and a staff of Assistants and Clerks. The Officers have advisory and executive duties. They have to travel frequently to keep in touch with the Universities. Apart from the Secretary, there are at present an Assistant Secretary, two

Development Officers, and two Education Officers. The present officers are: Shri H. S. Verma, Assistant Secretary, formerly Under-secretary to the Government of India in the Ministry of Education; Dr. B. D. Laroia, Development Officer, Science and Technology, formerly Assistant Director, National Chemical Laboratory; Dr. P. J. Philip, Development Officer, Humanities and Social Sciences, formerly of the Department of Political Science of Patna University; Dr. Sukumar Bhattacharya, Education Officer for Humanities, formerly of the Department of History, Asutosh College, Calcutta; and Dr. V. S. Patankar, Education Officer, Science and Technology, formerly Principal, Siddharta College, Bombay. The Accounts Officer of the Commission is Shri P. B. Chatterjee, formerly an Assistant Accounts Officer in the office of the Accountant General, Central Revenues.

#### **Administrative Expenses**

The Administrative expenses of the University Grants Commission including rents and travelling allowances in 1956-57 amounted to Rs. 2,90,051/-. The first three Chairmen of the Commission acted in an honorary capacity and the present Chairman since his appointment has been working on a nominal salary of Re. 1/- per month. This has saved the Commission a sum of about Rs. 36,000/- annually.

#### **The Commission and the British University Grants Committee**

The University Grants Commission is modelled, in part, upon the University Grants Committee in the United Kingdom. In the United Kingdom it was found necessary as far back as 1919 to set up a body "to enquire into the financial needs of University education in the United Kingdom and to advise the Government as to the application of any grants that may be made by Parliament to meet them." This Committee is a Committee of the Treasury and advises the Chancellor of the Exchequer. Gradually the Committee's duties and powers have increased. A convention has developed by which the advice of the Committee is accepted without debate and the Universities are exempted from detailed financial investigations by Parliament and the Public Accounts Committee. The University Grants Commission in India has the duty of advising Government on the funds to be

made available from the Consolidated Fund of India for University education in India, and to allocate and disburse these funds in a manner best calculated to develop University education in the country in a co-ordinated manner. The intention is that the Commission, like the British University Grants Committee should be a fully free body whose activities are not subject to frequent and detailed scrutiny by Government. There are, however, certain differences between the two bodies, arising out of the differences in the administrative systems of the two countries. The University Grants Committee in the United Kingdom deals with the financial needs of all the Universities in the same way: in India only four Universities are the direct and complete responsibility of the University Grants Commission. The other Universities, having been created by State legislatures, are only partially dependent on the University Grants Commission for funds. They receive financial assistance from their respective State Governments also. Any assistance that the University Grants Commission may give to these Universities from funds placed at its disposal by the Government of India has, therefore, to be in the main for special developmental purposes, and to supplement the grants from the State Governments. It has been found in practice that this raises various problems of relationship between the University Grants Commission, the Universities and the State Governments concerned. If the present constitutional set-up remains unaltered it will be necessary for certain conventions to be established by agreement between the State Governments and the Central Government and between the Universities and the University Grants Commission, by which it will be possible to deal expeditiously with the developmental needs alike of Central and State Universities and to ensure that plans are not held up owing to delay in securing agreement among the parties concerned.

#### **Universities of India**

There are at present thirty-three Universities in India operating under Acts passed by the Central or State legislatures which are on our grants list. For historical and other reasons, four of these Universities, viz., those of Delhi, Banaras, Aligarh and Visva-Bharati, are incorporated under Acts of the Central legislature. The other "State Universities" are under the jurisdiction of the newly constituted States. Uttar Pradesh, formerly known as the United

Provinces, has four Universities, viz., Allahabad, Lucknow, Agra and the Engineering and Technological University of Roorkee. (Aligarh and Banaras are also situated within the State of U.P.). The State of Bombay has at present seven Universities. These are the Universities of Bombay, Nagpur, Gujarat, Poona, the Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda, the S. N. D. T. (Shreemati Nathibai Damodar Thackersey) Womens' University and the newly established University at Anand, called the Sardar Vallabhbhai Vidyapeeth. The State of West Bengal has two Universities, viz., the University of Calcutta, the oldest of modern Indian Universities, and the Jadavpur University, which grew out of the National Council of Education founded in the *Swadeshi* days following the partition of Bengal. (Visva-Bharati, founded originally by Rabindranath Tagore, is also situated in West Bengal but is incorporated under a Central Act). Andhra Pradesh has three Universities, viz., the Andhra University at Waltair, the Osmania University at Hyderabad and the Sri Venkateswara University at Tirupati. In the State of Madras there are two Universities, viz., the University of Madras and the Annamalai University. Bihar has two Universities, one the "teaching and unitary" University of Patna, and the other the affiliating University of Bihar with its headquarters, also, at Patna. The State of Mysore has two Universities. Apart from the University of Mysore, the Karnatak University at Dharwar formerly a part of Bombay, is now within Mysore State. In the Panjab, the University of the Panjab with its headquarters in the new capital city of Chandigarh, affiliates all the colleges in the State. The States of Assam, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Utkal and Rajasthan have one University each with their headquarters situated respectively at Gauhati, Trivandrum, Saugar, Cuttack and Jaipur. The State of Jammu and Kashmir has a University of the same name with its main headquarters at Srinagar. Steps have been recently taken to establish new Universities at Kurukshetra in the Panjab, at Gorakhpur in Uttar Pradesh, at Jabalpur and Ujjain in Madhya Pradesh and at certain other places.

#### **New Universities**

Section 12 (f) of the University Grants Commission Act provides that the Commission may "advise any authority, if such

advice is asked for, on the establishment of a new University". It may not be out of place to say that in some recent instances authorities of some State Governments have not thought fit to ask for the advice of the Commission before establishing new Universities. They have, however, approached the Commission for financial assistance towards their development immediately after the legislative measures creating the Universities received governmental sanction. If the University Grants Commission is to provide for "co-ordination and determination of standards" in Indian Universities, it must expect to be consulted in good time before new Universities come into being, so that proper care may be taken to avoid wastage and needless duplication of facilities so that the promotion of University education in the country may be on a sound basis. In the present state of our national finances, it is desirable to avoid fast and unplanned multiplication of Universities.

#### **Recognition of other Institutions**

A somewhat related problem is that of according recognition to certain institutions which for historical or other reasons have remained outside the pale of the accredited Universities of the country, but has done good work in imparting education of University standard. Section 3 of the University Grants Commission Act provides that "the Central Government may, on the advice of the Commission, declare, by notification in the Official Gazette, that any institution for higher education, other than a University, shall be deemed to be a University for the purposes of this Act." We appointed a committee under the chairmanship of Shri Mehr Chand Mahajan, former Chief Justice of India, to consider matters connected with this question. This Committee however felt that the criteria to be applied in deeming an institution to be a University for the purposes of the University Grants Commission Act, must be determined by the Commission itself. We are therefore giving careful thought to the problem of laying down the conditions necessary for making an institution eligible to be considered under this provision of the Act.

#### **Medium of Instruction**

The medium of instruction in most of our Universities is English, though a few of them have adopted Hindi or some

other regional language as the medium of instruction for some or all under-graduate courses. The question as to the most suitable medium of instruction for Indian Universities has been engaging public attention ever since Independence. The University Education (Radhakrishnan) Commission favoured the adoption of the regional language, with the option to use the federal language, as the medium of University instruction. But fear was expressed by other bodies like the Inter-University Board that unless all Universities of India taught in a common language the possibility of interchange of teachers and scholars and the free movement of ideas and possibly the unity of the country itself would be adversely affected. But the adoption of Hindi as the medium of instruction in Universities in regions where it is not the language of the people will naturally involve considerable difficulties. There are also doubts based on practical considerations regarding the wisdom of changing the medium of instruction at the University stage from English to an Indian language in the immediate future. The comparative neglect of English on the part of University students in recent years has, along with some other factors, already adversely affected the standards of University education to some extent. We have appointed a Committee consisting of Pandit H. N. Kunzru, Shri N. K. Sidhanta, Shri V. K. Ayappan Pillai and Shri S. Mathai to examine the problems connected with the question of the medium of instruction and recommend measures to ensure adequate proficiency in English at the University stage. The report of the Committee is awaited. We will also consider in this connection the report of the Official Language Commission.

#### **Salaries of University Teachers**

As has already been stated, the Universities of India have no large endowments; they depend almost wholly on student fees and grants from Government. Neither of these two sources of revenue has been flexible enough to meet the growing needs of the Universities. With increasing emphasis on Science and Technology the cost of education steadily goes up, and most of our Universities have had to struggle along with inadequate laboratory, library and classroom accommodation, with limited scientific equipment, and an inadequate supply of books and journals. Salaries paid to the teaching staff

have been poor in most cases, and rising living costs have made the economic position of the teachers very unsatisfactory. Soon after its establishment the University Grants Commission took up some of these matters and gave grants to the Universities for some of these purposes. The Commission laid down certain minimum scales of pay for University teachers and offered assistance to Universities to raise them where these were lower than the minimum suggested by the Commission. We have recommended the following scales of salaries for University teachers under the Second Five Year Plan:—

|   |     |                                |
|---|-----|--------------------------------|
| Professors                                  | ... | Rs. 800-50-1250                |
| Readers                                     | ... | Rs. 500-25-800                 |
| Lecturers                                   | ... | Rs. 250-500                    |
| University teacher<br>below the above ranks | )   | Not less than<br>Rs. 150/-p.m. |

The increased cost of upgrading the salaries of teachers in Central Universities is borne by the Commission, while for the State Universities, the Commission will bear 80% of the increased cost, the other 20% being payable by the State Government or University concerned. So far fourteen State Universities have implemented the scheme with financial assistance from the Commission.

#### Qualifications of Teachers

Along with the scheme for the upgrading of salaries of University teachers we have been considering the question of making regulations consistent with the University Grants Commission Act and the rules made thereunder defining the qualifications that should ordinarily be required of any person to be appointed to the teaching staff of a University. We have appointed a committee consisting of Shri C. D. Deshmukh, Prof. M. S. Thacker, Dr. K. S. Krishnan and Shri S. Mathai to consider the qualifications of the different categories of University teachers and to make recommendations for their improvement. On the basis of information received from Universities regarding the rules governing the recruitment of teachers, the Committee has made certain recommendations which are under the consideration of the Commission. We also have before us schemes for the appointment of Visiting Professors (including Readers and Lecturers) from among eminent foreign scholars and the terms and conditions of their service in Indian Universities.



**Disbursements**

The grants paid to the Universities for development purposes from December, 1953 to March 31, 1956 were as follows:—

|                      |             |
|----------------------|-------------|
| Library Buildings    | 14,70,000   |
| Laboratory Buildings | 29,40,750   |
| Library Books        | 31,53,500   |
| Laboratory Equipment | 1,77,50,880 |
| Salaries             | 14,45,603   |
|                      | 2,77,60,733 |

The total amount paid by the Commission to the Universities, including maintenance grants to the Central Universities, was as follows:—

|         |             |
|---------|-------------|
| 1954-55 | 1,94,20,036 |
| 1955-56 | 2,65,75,329 |
| 1956-57 | 3,38,69,860 |

**Five Year Plan**

In connection with the Second National Five Year Plan (1956-61) the Planning Commission of the Government of India made an allocation of Rs. 27 crores to the University Grants Commission for the 'development' of the Universities. (This amount excludes the sums required for 'maintenance' grants to the Central Universities). On the basis of requests received from the Universities and on other considerations this amount was apportioned by us as follows:—

|                                | <i>Central<br/>Universities</i> | <i>State<br/>Universities</i> | <i>Total</i>     |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------|
|                                | <i>Rs. lakhs</i>                | <i>Rs. lakhs</i>              | <i>Rs. lakhs</i> |
| (1) <i>Buildings</i>           |                                 |                               |                  |
| (a) Libraries                  | 40.00                           | 105.00                        | 145.00           |
| (b) Laboratories               | 57.00                           | 224.00                        | 281.00           |
| (c) Technological Institutions | 22.13                           | 110.78                        | 132.91           |
| (d) Other buildings            | 50.00                           | 110.00                        | 160.00           |
|                                | 169.13                          | 549.78                        | 718.91           |

|   | <i>Central<br/>Universities<br/>Rs. lakhs</i> | <i>State<br/>Universities<br/>Rs. lakhs</i> | <i>Total<br/>Rs. lakhs</i> |
|---|---|---|----------------------------|
| (2) <i>Equipment</i>  |   |   |                            |
| (a) Equipment for Higher Scientific Education                                 | 107.28  | 339.06                                      | 446.34                     |
| (b) Equipment for Technological Institutions                                  | 50.00   | 110.00                                      | 160.00                     |
|   | <u>157.28</u>                                 | <u>449.06</u>                               | <u>606.34</u>              |
| (3) <i>Books</i>  |   |   |                            |
| (a) Humanities  | 25.00   | 60.00                                       | 85.00                      |
| (b) Science   | 10.80   | 66.00                                       | 76.80                      |
|   | <u>35.80</u>                                  | <u>126.00</u>                               | <u>161.80</u>              |
| (4) Salary enhancement for University teachers                                | —   | 110.00                                      | 110.00                     |
| (5) Loans to Universities (for Hostel buildings and staff quarters)           | 62.00   | 188.00                                      | 250.00                     |
| (6) Recurring expenditure (Additional staff etc.)                             |   |   |                            |
| (a) Science   | 84.92   | 110.94                                      | 195.86                     |
| (b) Technology  | 27.87   | 119.22                                      | 147.09                     |
| (c) Humanities  | 33.00   | 77.00                                       | 110.00                     |
|   | <u>145.79</u>                                 | <u>307.16</u>                               | <u>452.95</u>              |
| (7) Special schemes and minor items   | 30.00   | 70.00                                       | 100.00                     |
| Total (1 to 7)  | <u>600.00</u>                                 | <u>1800.00</u>                              | <u>2400.00</u>             |
| Grants to Bombay, Calcutta and Madras Universities for Centenary celebrations |   |   | 300.00                     |
|   |   |   | <u>300.00</u>              |
|   | <b>Grand Total:—</b>                          |   | <b>2700.00</b>             |

### Priorities

It will be observed that the largest portion of the total amount (nearly Rs. 10 crores including loans for Hostels and Staff quarters)

has been allocated for the construction of buildings. We have decided, after consideration of all the needs of the Universities that for the first 5-10 years priority must be given to the improvement of the physical facilities of the Universities. Unless shortages in cement, steel and other building materials and national considerations compel a change of policy, we shall adhere to the view that standards of teaching and research cannot be materially improved without better buildings and equipment.

New libraries have been constructed at the Universities of Delhi, Nagpur, Baroda and Saugar. New library buildings are at various stages of construction at the Universities of Sri Venkateswara, Gauhati, Karnatak, Poona, Annamalai, S. N. D. T. Women's and Aligarh.

Bombay, Saugar, Banaras, Baroda and Nagpur Universities have already completed construction of laboratories for some of their Science, Engineering and Technological Departments with the aid of grants given by the Commission. Construction work for schemes aided by the Commission is in progress, at 14 other Universities.

Similarly we consider the improvement of laboratories and libraries by the addition of more and better scientific apparatus and books and Journals essential for the raising of standards of education and research. In the matter of scientific equipment, we lay emphasis first of all on renovation and replacement of existing apparatus and making good obvious deficiencies. But some provision has also been made for the expansion of existing facilities for teaching and research, for the opening of new departments of studies, and undertaking fresh projects of research.

But we must mention here that the Universities have encountered difficulties in carrying out their projects for construction of buildings and purchase of apparatus and books. Cement and steel and other building materials have been in short supply, and licences for the import of scientific equipment and other material have not been readily available to them. These and other difficulties have hampered progress in their activities, and the Universities have not been able to utilise funds as rapidly as we had hoped.

We have taken the view that in certain highly specialised fields of study and research it is desirable to concentrate efforts in a few selected places. Thus on the recommendations of a Committee appointed to consider development of Astronomical studies, we have selected Nizamiah Observatory, Osmania University, for specialisation in experimental Astronomy and Delhi University for studies in theoretical Astronomy. Two centres, namely, Banaras Hindu University and Andhra University, have been selected for development of training and research facilities in Geophysics.

With a view to provide facilities for research work at high altitude especially in the field of Cosmic rays a Research Observatory has been established at Gulmarg in Kashmir under the joint auspices of the Universities of Aligarh and Jammu and Kashmir.

The Universities of Annamalai, Andhra and Kerala have been helped to establish specialised schools for the study of Biological Oceanography. The Research Station of Annamalai University at Porto Novo is now well equipped for research in estuarine problems whereas Andhra University has been carrying on a good deal of work at Waltair concerning Marine Biology, Marine Geology and Oceanography. Kerala University is the first in India to own a ship for oceanographic studies. For nearly two years the Indian Navy lent the use of their survey ship to Andhra University for conducting research work.

In the field of pure sciences, the Universities of Allahabad, Madras and Kerala are developing improved facility for work in X-ray and X-ray Crystallography. The Universities of Calcutta, Andhra, Delhi and Aligarh are developing teaching and research in various aspects of Nuclear Physics. Spectroscopic work is being carried on at a fairly satisfactory level at Banaras and Karnatak Universities, whereas Aligarh is specialising in Microwave Spectroscopy. The University of Panjab is taking special interest in the development of Animal Genetics. The Universities of Calcutta and Allahabad have developed courses in Electronics and Applied Physics. Plant Physiology is receiving increased attention at Delhi, Calcutta and Banaras.

New sections of Ore-Dressing have been created at the Universities of Andhra, Annamalai, Banaras, Bombay, Madras and Osmania.

On the recommendation of the All India Council of Technical Education, Banaras Hindu University has been helped to develop and expand facilities in the teaching of Mining and Metallurgy. New courses in Mining Engineering have been started at Osmania University. In accordance with the recommendation of the special committees appointed for the development of Chemical Technology, Pharmacy and Pharmaceutics, new courses have been organised in these subjects. Efforts have also been made to establish at least one centre for Pharmaceutical education in each major State

During the last few years a number of post-graduate courses in Engineering subjects have been started at various Indian Universities. At present facilities exist for the following Post-graduate courses at Roorkee and Banaras :—

- (a) Dam Construction and Irrigation Engineering. (Roorkee)
- (b) Structural Engineering including concrete Technology. (Roorkee)
- (c) Soil Mechanics and Foundation Engineering. (Roorkee)
- (d) Electrical Machine Design. (Roorkee and Banaras)
- (e) Public Health Engineering. (Roorkee)
- (f) Applied Thermodynamics. (Roorkee and Banaras)

In addition special research units have been sanctioned for work in X-ray Metallurgy and Metallurgy of light metal alloys at Banaras and Applied Hydro-dynamics at Osmania University.

One of the important developments during 1956-57 was the opening of the Water Resources Development Training Centre at Roorkee University. This Centre, which receives recurring grants from the Commission for its maintenance has been established with the object of providing serving Engineers the opportunities to study the latest developments in Engineering techniques being now employed in the construction of River Valley projects. With this object in view, the course has been designed to include basic principles

and important details of planning, investigations, design, construction, maintenance and operation of multipurpose river basin development projects and their technical, financial and human aspects. The first course attracted trainees from many countries of Asia and Africa.

A number of schemes for development of post-graduate teaching and research in Arts subjects also have been initiated in different Universities. The importance of the Social Sciences in the present context of national development has particularly been borne in mind. Mention may be made here of the opening of Departments of Buddhist studies and African studies at Delhi University, and Institute of Hindi studies and Linguistics and an Institute of Social Sciences at Agra University. Other projects under implementation are research in Medieval Indian History at Aligarh, research in Vedas and Vedangas at Banaras, translating and editing in Hindi well known literary works from other languages at Delhi, a comparative study of western and eastern music at Visva-Bharati, publication of a critical edition of Kamba Ramayanam at Annamalai, publication of a critical edition of Valmiki Ramayana and other Sanskrit works at Baroda, research in Nepali language to determine its origin and subsequent influence on it of Sanskrit and other Indian languages at Calcutta, research in Folk-Lore and collection of manuscripts in Assamese at Gauhati and publication of a Malayalam Lexicon at Kerala.

Grants have also been given to the Universities of Aligarh, Agra, Annamalai, Andhra, Allahabad, Baroda, Gauhati, Lucknow, Madras, Patna, Poona, Travancore, Utkal and Visva-Bharati for carrying out research in Social Tensions. The problems dealt with under this scheme relate to certain maladjustments in the life of some communities in India. It is proposed to publish some of the reports of the work done in this field.

Another scheme which received financial assistance from the Commission related to research in Social Welfare. The Universities of Agra, Aligarh, Baroda, Poona, Madras and Visva-Bharati have undertaken studies pertaining to student welfare, rural welfare,

We have further welcomed proposals from Universities for extension work by University teachers in various fields of scientific and cultural interest. The purpose of this work is to bring Universities into closer relationship with the communities living around them. With this aim in view the universities have been asked to organise short refresher courses, study circles, summer schools and public lectures for people who have little opportunity of coming in contact with institutions of higher learning. Grants have been given to the Universities of Andhra, Calcutta, Karnatak, Madras, and Saugar for this purpose.

#### **India Wheat Loan Fund**

In connection with our efforts to improve Libraries and Laboratories mention must be made of the additional assistance that has been available to the Universities under the India Wheat Loan Educational Exchange Programme of the United States of America. The programme provides approximately \$ 1 million annually for five years, most of which amount is meant for the purchase of scientific equipment and books for the Universities and a few other institutions, and for exchange of personnel. Equipment and books under this scheme must necessarily be purchased in the American market ; this provides a small but valuable relief to the present somewhat difficult position with regard to foreign exchange. Allocation of funds under this programme is made on our advice. On an average \$ 300,000 have been spent on purchase of books and Journals and \$ 400,000 on purchase of scientific apparatus annually. Under this scheme 24 librarians from Indian Universities were sent to America for a visit of 8-9 months. Similarly 24 Indian University teachers were sent to the U. S. A. to study the working of General Education, and 22 Scientists were sent to observe scientific work at American University centres for periods of 4 to 8 months. A number of American Professors in Science and General Education have come or are expected to come to India under the same programme. The programme has been in operation since 1954-55. We should like to take this opportunity to express our appreciation of this generous assistance from the U. S. A.

### The Fund of the Commission

The quinquennial allocation forming the Fund of the Commission is actually placed at the disposal of the Commission in annual instalments. Out of the total of Rs. 27.00 crores allocated by the Planning Commission for the Second Five Year Plan (1956-61) a sum of Rs. 2.42 crores (excluding Rs. 1.08 crores for the maintenance of the Central Universities) was placed at the disposal of the Commission during the first year i. e. in 1956-57. Actually the maintenance of the Central Universities cost Rs. 1,32,44,960 and a sum of Rs. 2,14,34,730 was spent on the development of Universities in 1956-57. A statement showing grants paid to the Universities is appended (Appendix).

In this connection it may be mentioned that the Commission's grants to State Universities are made on a sharing principle. The present normal practice is that 2/3rd of all non-recurring expenditure on schemes accepted by the Commission are paid by the commission, the remaining 1/3rd being met by the University and/or the State Government. On items of recurring expenditure the Commission shares half the cost. This sharing principle has been adopted on the assumption that some funds for the development of University education are available with the State Governments, and that the State Governments would naturally want to participate in the development of University education within their territories. In practice this principle has raised some difficulties and sometimes caused delay in the implementation of schemes of development. This matter will have to be further examined by all parties concerned and a more expeditious *modus operandi* found.

We have been informed by the Government that during the year 1957-58 a sum of Rs. 2.75 crores only will be available for development grants to the Universities (excluding Rs. 1.42 crores for the maintenance of the Central Universities). This is against a sum of Rs. 5.24 crores asked for by the Commission. The amounts to be made available to the Commission annually in the remaining three years of the Plan period is not yet known.

In view of the fact that the foundation of the three Universities of Calcutta, Bombay, and Madras in 1857 marked the beginning of



modern education in India, the University Grants Commission considered that suitable commemoration of the centenary of these Universities would justify a special grant of Rs. 1 crore to each of them from the Commission's funds. The three Universities have been given the largest measure of freedom to make their development plans in connection with the centenary. We have, however, suggested that about 75% of the centenary grant be utilised for the construction of buildings (including fittings, furniture and equipment) and the remaining 25% for endowing Professorships and Fellowships. The following amounts were paid to the three Universities in 1956-57 towards the implementation of their centenary programmes :—

|          |               |
|----------|---------------|
| Calcutta | 7,45,000      |
| Bombay   | 13,50,000     |
| Madras   | 15,90,000     |
| Total    | Rs. 36,85,000 |

It will be seen from the account given above that we have been trying to help the development of Universities according to a planned programme. Difficulties are likely to arise if funds expected to be placed at the disposal of the Commission during a specified period are actually not made available to us. The Radhakrishnan Commission in its Report had remarked, "we wish to make it perfectly clear that while Government must decide each year what sum to include for University grants in its budget, the sum once granted cannot be reduced in subsequent years without disastrous consequences. Instead of giving a large sum in a good year and cutting it down in a bad year, it would be well for the Government to fix the sum at a figure that they feel confident of being able not merely to maintain but to increase by some small percentage annually for, say, the next 10 years." Any reduction of the amount of Rs. 27 crores allocated to the University Grants Commission during the Second Five-Year Plan will naturally hamper the progress of the development programme undertaken in the Universities.

#### Affiliated Colleges

Our grants hitherto have been almost wholly confined to departments of teaching and research directly run by the Universities,

and to what might be described as "headquarters activities" of the Universities. But by far the larger part of the actual teaching in the country including some of the post-graduate work, is provided by more or less autonomous colleges affiliated to the Universities. The number of such colleges has been steadily growing, and there are over 830 colleges (not including professional institutions) in the country. Many of these colleges receive grants-in-aid from State Governments. Obviously, much of the quality of University education in India will depend on the standards maintained by the colleges, and unless it is made possible for them to make rapid improvements in their staff, equipment, libraries, laboratories and other facilities, no real improvement of University education will take place. One of the problems before the University Grants Commission is the manner and extent to which affiliated colleges can be assisted from the funds of the Commission. Improvement of the material and human resources of the affiliated colleges will naturally cost a great deal of money. Unless the funds of the University Grants Commission are increased very considerably it will not be possible for us to touch even the fringe of the problem. The University Grants Commission Act empowers the Commission to deal with colleges and other institutions of higher learning, and we are collecting information about them to determine the basis on which the development and improvement of facilities in them may be assisted.

Meanwhile, in view of the basic importance of better scales of (for pay) teachers in the affiliated colleges for the raising of standards, we suggested that at least the following minimum scales should be made applicable to them from 1st April, 1956:—

|                      |             |
|----------------------|-------------|
| Principal            | Rs. 600-800 |
| Heads of Departments | Rs. 400-700 |
| Teachers Class I     | Rs. 300-500 |
| Teachers Class II    | Rs. 200-400 |

We recommended to the Government of India and to the State Governments that the increased cost on account of the improvements of scales of pay of the teachers should be shared equally between the Central Government and the State Governments. On the Governments of India intimating that they were not in a position to share with the State Governments the expenditure of

upgrading the salaries of teachers in affiliated colleges, we appointed a Committee consisting of Dr. A.L. Mudaliar, Dr. John Matthai and Prof. N. K. Sidhanta to consider the question of giving assistance in any other way to the teachers. This Committee did not submit a formal report : but it was their view that the highest priority should be given to the improvement of teachers' salaries and of conditions generally in the colleges. It is our considered view that the improvement of teachers' salaries is vital to the whole effort to improve the standards of teaching and research in the Universities and colleges. The teaching profession has almost ceased to attract the best men and women and those already in the profession feel disheartened. Steps must be taken as early as possible to raise both the initial salary and the scales of pay for all classes of teachers, and specially for College Lecturers. We are now further examining this problem.

#### **Medical and Agricultural Education**

Another limitation which we have so far accepted for historic reasons is that of not making any grants toward medical or agricultural education. These two branches of higher education have, in the past, been considered the responsibility of the Departments (later Ministries) of Health and Agriculture. The University Grants Commission Act was sponsored by the Ministry of Education, and the Commission's funds are shown as part of the budget of the Ministry of Education. There was some doubt, therefore, whether the University Grants Commission Fund could be utilised for the development of medical and agricultural teaching and research. But there is no limitation of any kind imposed by the Act itself, and obviously the term 'University education' must include all branches of learning and training. We have, therefore, under consideration proposals for including medicine and agriculture in our purview, and we have had some negotiations with the two Ministries concerned.

#### **Method of selection of schemes**

The method adopted by us in selecting schemes for which assistance may be given to a University and determining the extent of the assistance to be given may briefly be described :—

Each University is asked to prepare and send to the Commission

a detailed statement of the proposals it has for improvement, expansion, and development of its departments of teaching and research over a period of five years, corresponding to the Five-Year Plan periods of the Government of India. The statements submitted by the Universities are processed in the Commission's office and placed before a Scrutiny Committee specially appointed by the Commission for the purpose. This Committee is made up of a few well known persons, representing various fields of learning, drawn from the Universities and outside. The following persons have served on the Scrutiny Committee at different times:--

|                      |                      |
|----------------------|----------------------|
| Shri Humayun Kabir   | Prof. N. K. Sidhanta |
| Dr. J. N. Mukherji   | Dr. M. S. Thacker    |
| Dr. B. P. Pal        | Shri R. N. Banerji   |
| Shri K. G. Saiyidain | Shri E. de Costa     |

After examination the Scrutiny Committee recommends acceptance in principle, or rejection, of a proposal. The Commission itself then goes over the list. Each approved proposal is further examined in detail by a 'Visiting Committee'. A Visiting Committee usually consists of two or three specialists in the fields concerned, drawn from other Universities, and an officer of the Commission. Such a Committee or a combination of such Committees in related fields goes to the University concerned, spends a day or two there, and has discussions with the authorities of the University. The report of the Visiting Committee is then examined by the Commission, and a grant is made to the University on the basis of the recommendations of the Visiting Committee. In the fields of Engineering and Technology the Commission generally acts on the advice of the All-India Council for Technical Education (AICTE).

#### **Scholarships**

With a view to stimulating research and attracting suitable persons to the academic profession the Commission has proposed setting up a number of post-graduate and research scholarships and fellowships in the Universities. These, it is hoped, will enable the

brighter graduates of our Universities to pursue their studies and attract some of them to give their lives to academic work. As a beginning we have created 80 post-graduate scholarships of the value of Rs. 100/- each p. m. and 50 Research scholarships of Rs 150/- each p. m. on the Humanities side. We are also proposing the creation of 100 Fellowships of Rs. 300/- each and 100 Scholarships of Rs. 200/- each on the Science side. Among other programmes adopted by the Commission are grants for the publication of selected doctoral theses, grants for the publication of learned work of teachers, grants for extension work by teachers, grants for research in Social Tensions and Social Welfare studies, grants for student welfare projects, grants for exchange of teachers and for holding seminars, and grants for development of "central" workshops ( i. e. workshops available to all departments ) at University centres.

#### **Student Welfare**

We have taken the view that student welfare forms an integral part of educational development. Various proposals and suggestions for the improvement of the conditions in which our University students live and work are at present engaging our attention.

In recent years, there have been some instances of grave indiscipline among University students that have attracted widespread public attention. The causes of such indiscipline among students are many. Among them may be mentioned the use of students in election campaigns by political parties, unsatisfactory living conditions in some University centres, financial anxiety, insufficiently qualified and poorly paid teachers who are indifferent to their work and not seldom a source of evil influence among the students, lack of proper counselling, and poor prospects of employment after graduation.

We have given some thought to this problem and have suggested or agreed to certain steps which we hope will help to improve the position. We have also appointed a committee to study the problem.

and make recommendations regarding remedial action. A pilot scheme for student counselling is also under our consideration.

In addition to providing for loans to be paid to Universities for construction of hostels we have under consideration schemes for providing club facilities and Student-Homes to non-resident students, and student health centres. Student-Homes are intended for students in the larger cities. A large number of students in cities like Calcutta live in extremely unsatisfactory conditions. They have no privacy and no convenience for study, and their surroundings are often unhygienic and unpleasant. As a partial means of offsetting these disadvantages it has been suggested that 'Homes' might be provided for them so that they could spend the entire working day at these 'Homes' returning to their own apartments only at night. The scheme envisages the provision of facilities for washing, recreation and food, and also a reading room at these 'Student-Homes'. It is thought that such 'Homes' could be run by philanthropic bodies like the Ramakrishna Mission, the Y.M.C.A. etc., who have experience of running institutions for students and other young people. Prices for food and other facilities will be controlled and kept as low as possible.

We do not think that it will be possible for us to provide full-fledged medical facilities at the Universities. But we hope to be able to establish at all Universities health centres where a regular physical check-up of students can be made, and simple illnesses can be treated. We are in correspondence with the Universities on this subject.

We have proposed the setting up of a Student Aid Fund in all Universities and have offered assistance from the Commission to the extent of Rs. 10,000/-.

We hope that when these schemes are completed there will be a greater sense of contentment among students and it will be possible to minimise the effects of some of the other factors that we have referred to.

To solve the problem of accommodation for students and teachers and to help in the development of a healthy educational

atmosphere, we have recommended the payment of loans for constructing suitable buildings for students' hostels and for staff quarters. Loans for students' hostels to State Universities are interest-free, while in the Central Universities the financial assistance required for the construction of hostel buildings is treated as a grant. We have already allocated Rs. 2.4 crores to various Universities out of a total sum of Rs. 2.5 crores set apart for this purpose under the Second Five Year-Plan. The Law Ministry having ruled that the term "grant" does not include a loan, we have been prevented from paying out loans ourselves. We have therefore requested the Ministry of Education to pay these loans on our behalf.

#### **Building Committee**

To advise us on matters connected with the building programmes of the Universities we have appointed a Building Committee consisting of :—

- (1) Chairman of the University Grants Commission—Chairman
- (2) A representative of the Works Housing and Supply Ministry (Chief Engineer, C.P.W.D.)
- (3) A representative of the Finance Ministry
- (4) Shri B. D. Patel (Vice-Chancellor, Sardar Vallabhbhai Vidyapeeth)
- (5) Secretary, University Grants Commission

The Committee deals with questions of policy and such specific cases as may be referred to it. The detailed scrutiny of the plans and estimates is done by the Central P.W.D. in the case of Central Universities, while a certificate from the local Public Works Department that the estimates made by the University are in accordance with the local P.W.D. rates has to be submitted by the State Universities.

#### **Co-ordination of Standards**

A question that is now under our active consideration is to determine practical steps to be taken for the co-ordination of the standards of teaching and research in different Universities in India. This is in fact the primary function of the Commission. We have

appointed a committee consisting of Dr. C. D. Deshmukh as Chairman, and Dr. A. L. Mudaliar, Prof. M. S. Thacker and Prof. N. K. Sidhanta as members to suggest lines of action. The Committee has been considering such questions as laying down uniform practices for the award of Doctorate and Master's degrees, appointment and retirement of University teachers, the place of tutorials and seminars in teaching, appointment of examiners, etc. The committee is continuing its deliberations.

### **Student Numbers**

An important factor to be reckoned with in any attempt to determine, co-ordinate and improve standards in education is the growth in the number of students. Since independence, there has been a very sharp increase in the number of students in the colleges and University departments. In the first year of independence the University population of India was nearly 2,40,000. In 1951-52 there were over 4,00,000 students in University classes and colleges (not including medical and technological institutions). It is estimated that the number today is about 7,50,000. There has been a similar growth in numbers in the professional and technical courses, though the increase in them has been a controlled one. This increase in numbers has produced many problems. The Universities have not been able to expand their physical facilities or to increase the number of teachers in proportion to this rise in the number of students. The number of University institutions and colleges (not including technical, professional and special colleges) during the same period was 532 in 1946-7, 625 in 1951-2, and 746 in 1956. Inevitably there is a very real overcrowding in many of the colleges especially in the large cities and the already unsatisfactory situation with regard to contact between teachers and students has become much worse in many places. This problem of numbers has also contributed in some places to the growth of a spirit of restiveness among the students.

We are greatly concerned with the problem of numbers as it has a direct bearing on the standards of education. We cannot set up any clear targets for improvement of material facilities in the Universities if there is no stability in the number of students to be



provided for. It may not be possible or even desirable to attempt to stop further increase completely. The increase in the population of the country will be reflected in the number seeking admission to colleges, and the expansion of high school education will also have a marked impact on the situation. We actually need further increase in professional and technological courses. But the present rate of increase of about 50,000 students annually on the rolls of University institutions, pursuing courses in arts, science and commerce will need to be controlled in some measure at least if standards are to be improved with the limited resources likely to be available for the purpose.

It may be pointed out in this connection that at present we have about 2.2% of the University age group (estimated at 10% of the national population) on the rolls of our Universities (including professional and technical institutions). This compares with about 2.5% in the United Kingdom, 7% in Japan, and over 16% in the U.S.A. It is difficult to lay down any fixed principle on which the optimum numbers in Universities may be determined. In a free democratic society the supply of facilities for higher education will have to respond in some measure at least to public demand. In our particular national situation, as the country's development projects progress, there will be a growing demand for men and women with high academic qualifications in the various avenues of industry, commerce and administration. There will be an ever-growing demand for professionally trained people, including especially teachers. We are therefore conscious of the need for a responsive flexibility in our plans. We have to take measures both to control numbers and to provide for expansion. We have to attempt to secure a right balance between the humanities, the social sciences, the natural sciences, and the professional and technological courses. But our primary concern at present is the improvement of standards and facilities. From this point of view consolidation rather than expansion is the need of the day. The average direct expenditure per University student in India is about Rs. 500/- per annum whereas in the U.K. and the U.S.A. it exceeds Rs 5,000/-. Even after allowing for differences in cost of living our expenditure per student is

woefully inadequate. Actually, as a great deal of our books and scientific apparatus is imported, they cost us more than they do in Europe or America. Obviously therefore we cannot hope to achieve any marked improvement in our standards if the increase in the number of students constantly and very rapidly overtakes the available facilities. What the University Grants Commission can do in this matter will depend very largely on the funds available to it and the freedom of action it may enjoy.

### **Three-Year Degree Course**

The University Grants Commission has been closely associated with the proposal made by the Government of India for the introduction of a Three-Year Degree Course in Indian Universities. An Estimates Committee under the chairmanship of Dr. C. D. Deshmukh was appointed by the Ministry of Education to work out the estimates of expenditure connected with the proposal. This Committee has recommended that the Three-Year Degree Course should be introduced in as many Universities as possible during the Second Five-Year Plan period. The total amount which will be required to introduce the reform (including recurring expenditure for four years) will be about Rs. 25 crores. This is to be shared between the Central and State Governments in equal proportion. The Central Government is to provide 7½ crores (including 2½ crores to be made available by the University Grants Commission) in the first stage. A similar amount is to be found by the State Government, including contributions from private management. The total amount thus available will be Rs. 15 crores which will be sufficient for upgrading some 180 Intermediate colleges and re-organizing some 360 Degree colleges which should be taken as targets for the Second Five-Year Plan.

The Three-Year Degree Course is part of an overall scheme to improve the quality of collegiate and secondary education in the country. It is hoped that the introduction of the Three-Year Degree Course will provide an opportunity to revise the syllabuses, introduce general education courses, reduce overcrowding in colleges, improve the teacher-pupil ratio, strengthen laboratories, replenish libraries and,

wherever possible, institute a sound tutorial system. We have therefore accepted the proposal in principle and are awaiting further action by Government and the Universities.

#### **General Education**

One of the subjects to which we have given considerable attention is the question of how both students of Humanities and Social Sciences on the one hand and of the Physical Sciences and Technology on the other, could have an awareness of areas of knowledge other than their own special fields of study and how at least some of the students at the University could learn to take a lively interest in the whole range of human knowledge in a general way instead of becoming narrow specialists in one field of study. The question of providing "general education" at the first degree stage has, therefore, been under our consideration during the period under review. Regional Conferences of Universities have been studying the report of an Expert Committee on General Education appointed by the Government of India. Teams of Indian educators have visited the United States of America and the United Kingdom to study the working of general education, and experts from America are expected to visit some Indian Universities in the near future. In the light of the best guidance available it is hoped to invite, as a first step, a few Universities and colleges to formulate schemes for the introduction of general education courses. We have initiated a scheme at the Aligarh Muslim University for the preparation of reading material for a general education course.

#### **Visits to Universities**

We have kept in close touch with the Universities through visits to them by the Chairman, the Secretary, and other officers, and by holding some of our meetings at University centres outside Delhi. A number of Vice-Chancellors and other officers and Professors from the Universities have called on the Chairman and the officers of the Commission at Delhi for discussing problems of mutual concern.

#### **Office of the Commission**

The Commission's office is at present housed in a portion of the top floor of the building of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research. This floor was specially built for the use of the

Commission, but the C.S.I.R.'s own needs having grown in the meanwhile it has not been possible for them to place the entire floor at the disposal of the Commission. But even if the whole floor were made available the needs of the Commission could not have been wholly met. The work of the Commission's office is growing at rapid rate. There is need for a considerable expansion of staff, particularly in connection with the complex work connected with the collection, sifting, and arranging of information about the Universities that the office has to do, and the need to visit the far-flung Universities frequently. But the staff cannot be increased until more office room is available. We are now planning to put up an office building of our own, and have approached Government for the allocation of a suitable site for the purpose.

#### **Visits abroad**

In 1955 at the invitation of the British Council, the Secretary visited the United Kingdom to meet the Chairman and the Secretary of the British University Grants Committee and officers in some of the Universities in that country. In 1956, with the help of a grant from the Rockefeller Foundation he visited Japan to obtain some information about the Japanese University system, which has recently been reformed on American models. It is one of the functions of the University Grants Commission (Section 12 of the Act) "to collect information about University education in India and other countries", and it is hoped that more visits to observe Universities in other parts of the world can be made by members and officers of the Commission.

Although the Commission's activities have now gone on for over three years, the impact they have so far had on the life of the Universities may not appear to be of great magnitude. This is so partly because the situation we have been dealing with is a legacy of many years of inadequacy and the human as well as material resources, never too generous, had become increasingly insufficient to meet the rapid increase in the number of students. Nevertheless, the grants made and other steps taken by the Commission are beginning to have some influence. High standards of intellectual activity cannot be produced by external stimulus. It is for University men and women themselves to hitch their wagon to a star. But physical

and material conditions can help or hinder intellectual and spiritual growth. It is our hope that before long our efforts will result in providing at least the minimum conditions necessary to create and maintain high academic standards in an atmosphere free from anxiety or coercion.

S. Mathai  
*Secretary*

C. D. Deshmukh  
*Chairman*

H. N. Kunzru  
A. L. Mudaliar  
K. G. Saiyidain  
N. K. Sidhanta  
G. C. Chatterji  
S. Ratnam  
K. S. Krishnan

*Note:—*Though the Report is for the period ending 31st March, 1957, it is being signed by members as on 31st August, 1957.

APPENDIX  
Statement Showing Grants Paid to Universities  
During 1956-57.

| Name of the University                   | Recurring Rs.   | Non-recurring Rs. | Total Rs.       |
|--|-----------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| <b>Central Universities</b>              |                 |                   |                 |
| 1. Aligarh Muslim                        | 32,99,165 4 0   | 9,57,153 15 0     | 42,56,319 3 0   |
| 2. Banaras Hindu                         | 51,36,357 9 0   | 17,03,993 0 0     | 68,40,350 9 0   |
| 3. Delhi                                 | 25,80,484 10 0  | 18,71,059 0 0     | 44,51,543 10 0  |
| 4. Viswa Bharati                         | 11,23,000 0 0   | 2,62,496 15 0     | 13,85,496 15 0  |
| Total                                    | 1,21,39,007 7 0 | 47,94,702 14 0    | 1,69,33,710 5 0 |
| Constituent Colleges of Delhi University | 11,04,117 13 0  | 4,95,669 3 0      | 15,99,787 0 0   |
| <b>State Universities</b>                |                 |                   |                 |
| 1. Allahabad                             | ...             | 3,09,700 0 0      | 3,09,700 0 0    |
| 2. Andhra                                | 1,16,045 15 0   | 5,00,832 0 0      | 6,16,877 15 0   |
| 3. Agra                                  | ...             | 20,000 0 0        | 20,000 0 0      |
| 4. Annamalai                             | 1,40,060 0 0    | 4,32,000 0 0      | 5,72,560 0 0    |
| 5. Baroda                                | 17,666 0 0      | 3,67,290 0 0      | 3,84,956 0 0    |
| 6. Bombay*                               | 1,33,493 3 0    | 17,57,000 0 0*    | 18,90,493 3 0   |
| 7. Bihar                                 | ...             | 1,90,000 0 0      | 1,90,000 0 0    |
| 8. Calcutta*                             | 2,49,666 0 0    | 17,78,333 0 0*    | 20,27,999 0 0   |
| 9. Gauhati                               | 10,718 12 0     | 4,14,000 0 0      | 4,24,718 12 0   |
| 10. Gujarat                              | 3,127 6 0       | 80,000 0 0        | 83,127 6 0      |
| 11. Jadavpur                             | 3,98,000 0 0    | 7,47,668 0 0      | 11,45,668 0 0   |
| 12. Jammu & Kashmir                      | ...             | 10,000 0 0        | 10,000 0 0      |
| 13. Karnatak                             | 13,639 6 0      | 4,45,000 0 0      | 4,58,639 6 0    |
| 14. Lucknow                              | ...             | 3,31,000 0 0      | 3,31,000 0 0    |
| 15. Madras*                              | 1,41,353 10 0   | 19,59,333 0 0*    | 21,00,686 10 0  |
| 16. Myscre                               | ...             | 80,000 0 0        | 80,000 0 0      |
| 17. Nagpur                               | 29,385 1 0      | 2,12,175 0 0      | 2,41,560 1 0    |
| 18. Osmania                              | 65,845 7 0      | 6,15,000 0 0      | 6,80,845 7 0    |
| 19. Patna                                | ...             | 1,97,000 0 0      | 1,97,000 0 0    |
| 20. Poona                                | ...             | 2,60,000 0 0      | 2,60,000 0 0    |
| 21. Panjab                               | 29,466 0 0      | 5,18,790 0 0      | 5,48,256 0 0    |
| 22. Rajasthan                            | 616 0 0         | 1,23,000 0 0      | 1,23,616 0 0    |
| 23. Saugar                               | 50 0 0          | 3,51,000 0 0      | 3,51,050 0 0    |
| 24. Kerala                               | 7,276 0 0       | 2,35,000 0 0      | 2,42,276 0 0    |
| 25. Roorkee                              | 2,93,597 0 0    | 4,77,025 0 0      | 7,70,622 0 0    |

\*This includes Centenary grants also.

|                            |               |                 |                 |
|----------------------------|---------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| 26. Utkal                  | 411 9 0       | 5,86,000 0 0    | 5,86,411 9 0    |
| 27. Sri Venkateswara       | ...           | 1,78,300 0 0    | 1,78,300 0 0    |
| 28. Vallabhbhai Vidyapeeth | ...           | 30,000 0 0      | 30,000 0 0      |
| Total                      | 16,50,917 5 0 | 1,32,15,446 0 0 | 1,48,66,363 5 0 |

|   |                 |                 |                  |
|---|-----------------|-----------------|------------------|
| Total for Central Universities, Constituent Colleges of Delhi University, and State Universities. | 1,48,94,042 9 0 | 1,85,05,818 1 0 | 3,33,99,860 10 0 |
|---|-----------------|-----------------|------------------|

|  |  |  |              |
|--|--|--|--------------|
| Grant paid to CARE as import duty on scientific equipment received under Wheat Loan Educational Exchange Programme (including Demurrage Charges of Rs. 70,000) |  |  | 4,70,000 0 0 |
|--|--|--|--------------|

3,38,69,860 10 0

*N.B.*—A sum of Rs. 8,09,829/11/9 was adjusted by Government of India, against the Fund of the University Grants Commission on account of conversion of following loans into out-right grants:—

|  |               |               |
|--|---------------|---------------|
| Banaras: Grant for the implementation of electric supply re-organisation scheme            | 6,50,000 0 0  | 6,50,000 0 0  |
| Delhi : Grant for the construction of the northern and eastern wings of the Science Block. | 1,59,829 11 9 | 1,59,829 11 9 |

8,09,829 11 9

## APPENDIX (Contd.)

## SUMMARY

## Non-Plan Projects

|   | Recurring<br>Rs.        | Non-recurring<br>Rs. | Total<br>Rs.            |
|---|-------------------------|----------------------|-------------------------|
| <b>Central Universities</b>                                       |                         |                      |                         |
| 1. Block Grants   | 1,17,80,000 0 0         | ...                  | 1,17,80,000 0 0         |
| 2. Other grants paid from non-plan provision                      | 1,49,156 14 0           | 2,15,908 0 0         | 3,65,064 14 0           |
| 3. Maintenance grant for Constituent Colleges of Delhi University | 10,95,017 13 0          | 4,877 3 0            | 10,99,895 0 0           |
| <b>Total:</b>   | <b>1,30,24,174 11 0</b> | <b>2,20,785 3 0</b>  | <b>1,32,44,959 14 0</b> |

## Plan Projects

## Development Grants to Central Universities

|                         |               |                |                |
|-------------------------|---------------|----------------|----------------|
| 1. Humanities           | 1,31,953 15 0 | 18,72,294 14 0 | 20,04,258 13 0 |
| 2. Science              | 77,886 10 0   | 16,74,000 0 0  | 17,51,886 10 0 |
| 3. Technology           | ...           | 10,32,500 0 0  | 10,32,500 0 0  |
| 4. Constituent Colleges | 9,100 0 0     | 4,90,792 0 0   | 4,99,892 0 0   |

## Development Grants to State Universities

|                                    |               |               |               |
|------------------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| 1. Humanities                      | 85,909 2 0    | 14,39,540 0 0 | 15,25,449 2 0 |
| 2. Science                         | 82,742 0 0    | 50,32,848 0 0 | 51,15,590 0 0 |
| 3. Technology                      | 14,82,266 3 0 | 30,58,058 0 0 | 45,40,324 3 0 |
| 4. Grant for Centenary celebration | ...           | 36,85,000 0 0 | 36,85,000 0 0 |

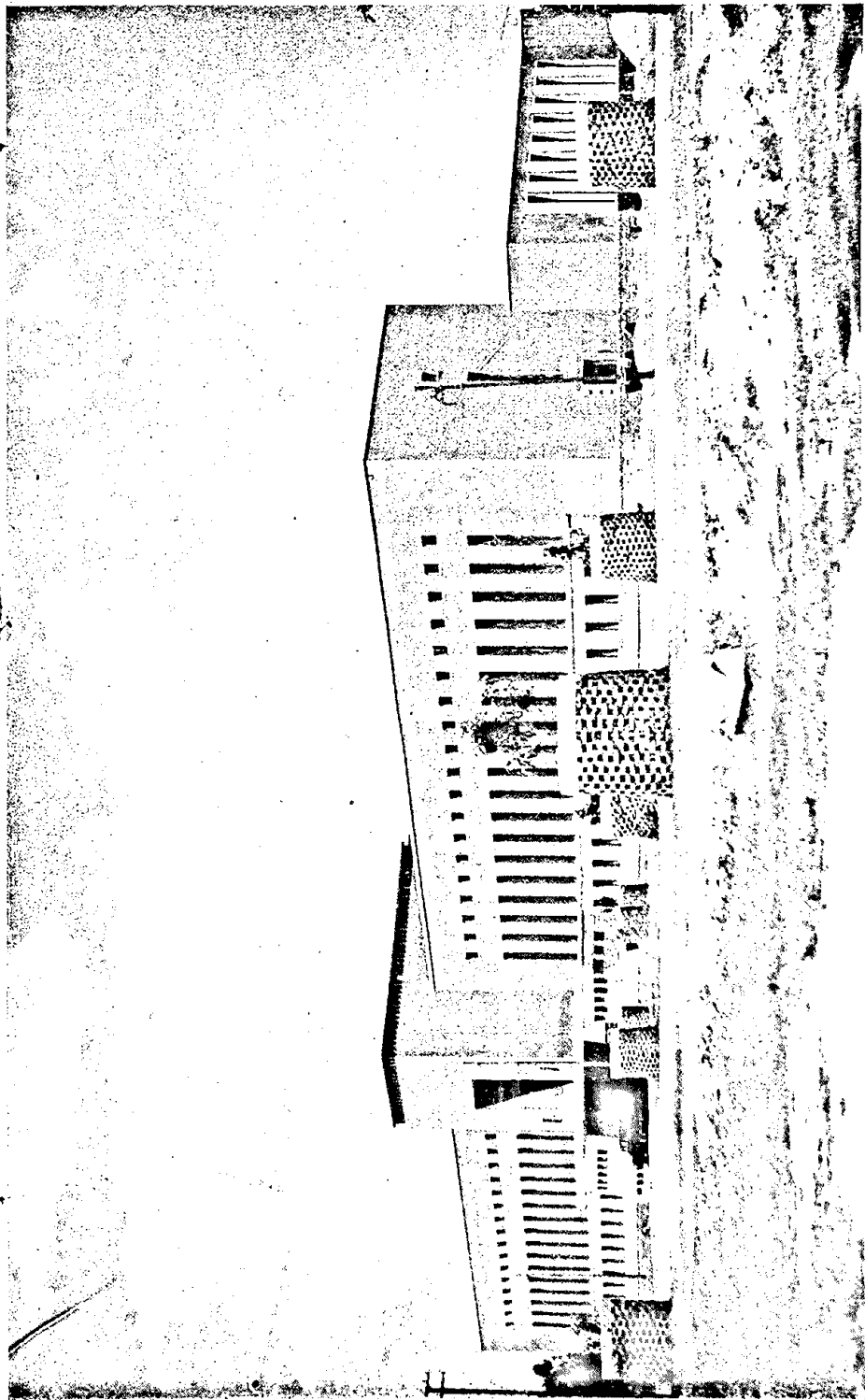
## Total Development Grants to Central &amp; State Universities

|  |                        |                        |                         |
|--|------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|
| Total Development Grants to Central & State Universities | 18,69,867 14 0         | 1,82,85,032 14 0       | 2,01,54,900 12 0        |
| <b>Paid to CARE</b>                                      | ...                    | ...                    | <b>4,70,000 0 0</b>     |
| <b>Total for Plan &amp; Non-Plan projects</b>            | <b>1,48,94,042 9 0</b> | <b>1,85,05,818 1 0</b> | <b>3,38,69,860 10 0</b> |

N.B.—A sum of Rs. 8,09,829/11/9 was adjusted by Government of India, Ministry of Education while making grant-in-aid to University Grants Commission on account of conversion of following loans into an outright grant:—

|   |               |                      |
|---|---------------|----------------------|
| Banaras: Grant for the implementation of Electric supply re-organisation scheme.          | 6,50,000 0 0  | 6,50,000 0 0         |
| Delhi: Grant for the construction of the Northern and Eastern Wings of the Science Block. | 1,59,829 11 0 | 1,59,829 11 0        |
|   |               | <b>8,09,829 11 0</b> |



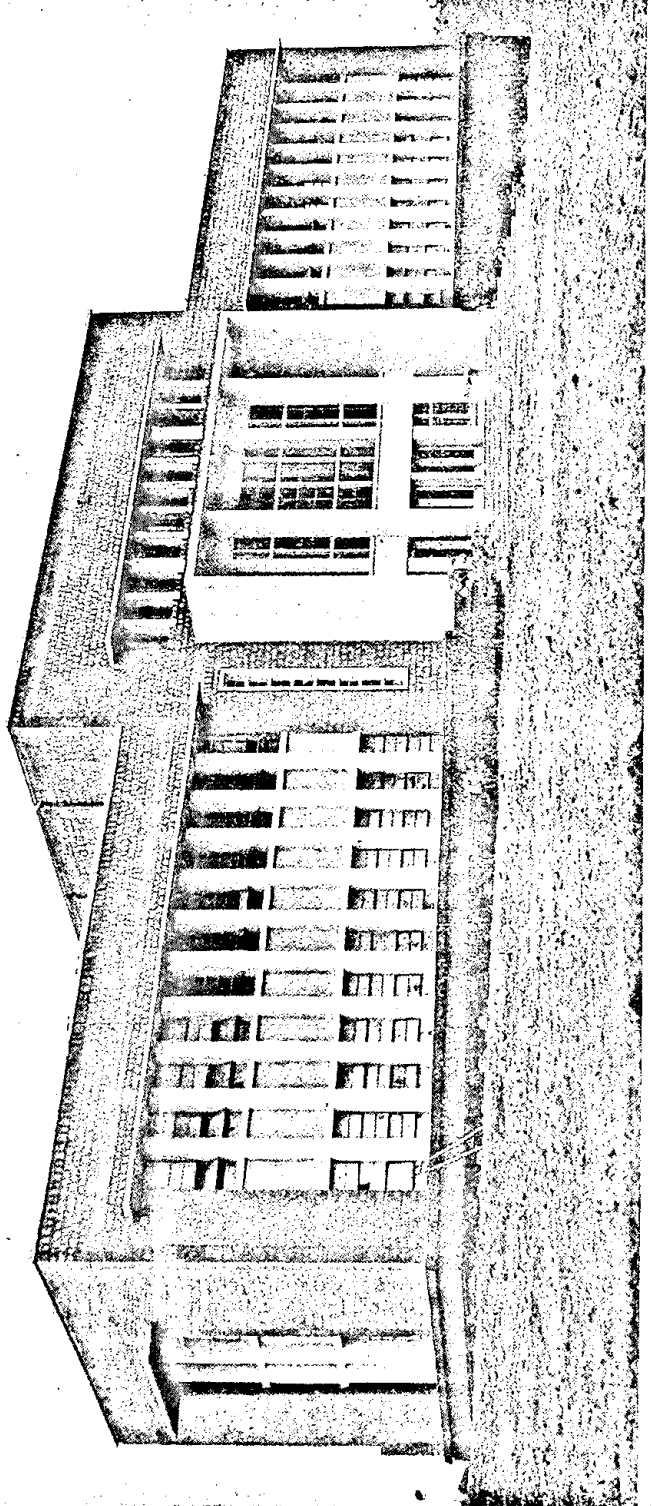


Library Building — Delhi University

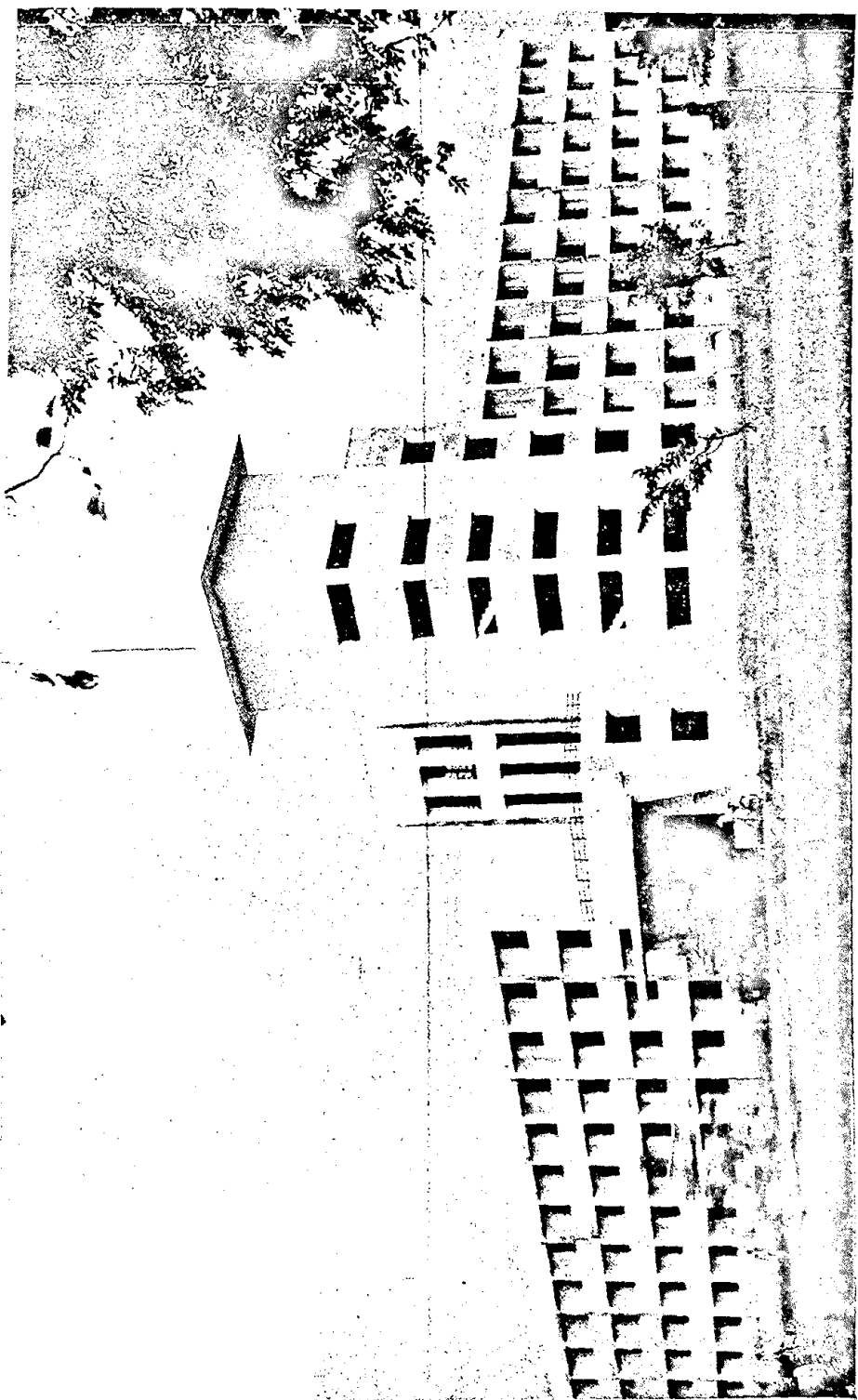
UNIVERSITY OF SAUGAR

LIBRARY BUILDING

NEW SITE



Library Building — Saugar University



Library Building — Nagpur University

