

To

Shri. Rakkam A. Sangma,

Cabinet Minister-Education Department, etc.

Govt. of Meghalaya

Dated: 30.1.2024

Sub: Implementation of CUET for admission in UG courses in colleges affiliated to NEHU.

Dear Minister,

This is an open letter that I am writing to you to express my deepest sense of concern regarding implementation of the Common University Entrance Test (CUET) for admission in the UG courses in our colleges. Since, education is a subject of the Concurrent list, the State government should have a say on how to go about it since in a few months' time, the process of seeking admission to the UG courses will begin. Moreover, NEHU, as a Central university where the colleges are affiliated, only have academic control and not the administrative control over them since inception. While the purpose of CUET is to provide a common platform and equal opportunities to candidates across the country, especially those from rural and other remote areas and help establish better connect with the Universities, I do hope that the State government is getting ready with the infrastructure needed for such a computer-based online test on a massive scale. Please ensure that the National Testing Agency (NTA) prepares well in advance in collaboration with the State government so that there are enough centres with sufficient computers with high-speed internet connectivity and power back-up across East Khasi Hills, West Khasi Hills, South West Khasi Hills, Eastern West Khasi Hills, East Jaintia Hills, West Jaintia Hills and Ri-Bhoi districts and the entire state of Meghalaya. Our students should not suffer and lose the opportunity of getting higher education which is so critical for the overall growth of the human resource of state, because of lack of preparedness on the part of the NTA or government of Meghalaya. Students should not be forced to go and write in the NTA centres outside the state which is going to create unnecessary and serious financial burden especially for those who are from remote villages and small towns and also for those from the economically weaker section. Last year, for the NET examination, our students were asked to write in NTA centres in Ranchi, Agartala, Dibrugarh, etc. which created unnecessary financial burden and agony because of lack of necessary NTA centres here in Meghalaya. As far as I know, only NEHU have a well-equipped NTA Centre in Shillong and this is going to be a serious problem for our young student friends if not addressed on time.

It is equally important that the government should come out with clear-cut admission criteria which will not ignore the marks scored in Class XII Board Examination and not rely solely on CUET scores for the benefit our students. Similarly, should not ignore the marks scored in the 3-years UG program for PG admissions in NEHU. If needed, I am also going to write to the Union Minister of Education-Shri Dharmendra Pradhan and also to the Hon'ble President of India Smt. Droupadi Murmu for information and timely intervention.

Yours Sincerely,

Prof. Lakhon Kma

Copy to:

1. The Hon'ble Governor of Meghalaya, Shri Phagu Chauhan
2. The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Meghalaya, Shri. Conrad Sangma