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Govt fact-finding team visits JU campus, Main Hostel

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Kolkata: The fact-finding committee formed by the state government visited Jadavpur University on Tuesday and gave a set of questions to the authorities. The officials have been asked to submit the replies within seven days.

State higher education department formed a four-member fact finding committee on August 17 after the ragging related death at Main Hostel of Jadavpur University. Convener Sibaji Ghosh, special secretary of higher education department, Chandrani Tudu, and director of public instruction (DPI), Jayasri Ray Chaudhuri, visited campus and the Main Hostel and had a two-hour with the registrar and other officials.

They have sought to know about the members of the anti-ragging committee and squad and how they worked, the role of officers and the time when they reached the spot on August 9 and the way the situation was handled.

The JU authorities were also told to reply with supportive data on measures taken in last five years to curb ragging.

Since the varsity has taken a decision to install CCTV cameras at 10 strategic points, the fact-finding committee has asked them to give a detailed report on where it wants to install the cameras and why.

They also wanted to know about the present number of security staff at the varsity and areas of lapses.

Even though a decision on CCTV installation was taken at least two weeks ago and work order issued, the work is yet to start. University's interim VC Buddhadeb Sau has called an all-stakeholder meeting on Friday following a protest by the students on Monday night

University authorities have spoken to the members of the committee regarding the estimated cost of CCTV installation. The panel members have also sought a detailed report on this within 7 days.

Ray Chaudhuri said, “We are trying to find out the administrative and infrastructural lapses at the university. After receiving the data , we will be able to prepare a report.”

The committee also went to the Main Hostel, from where the first-year student fell on August 9. They spoke to the staff and visited the balcony and rooms where the student was allegedly ragged.