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Bratya: Governornot thinking of students' interest

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Kolkata: Education minister Bratya Basu said governor C V Ananda Bose, also the chancellor of state-run universities, wanted to push the students to a corner over the Jadavpur University convocation but has probably stepped back.

“He is not thinking of the students’ interest. It would have been better if he did that,” the minister said on Thursday. Answering questions about who is the JU VC now, Basu said they are looking forward to the Supreme Court. “If the chancellor violates the SC order, it is his desire. But we are prepared to follow what the court will say,” Basu added.

On December 23, hours before the university’s convocation, the Raj Bhavan had sent a letter, terminating Buddhadeb Sau as the interim JU VC. But the education department sent a letter around midnight, asking Sau that he “might continue to exercise and perform the duties and let the convocation be held.” However, after the convocation, Sau resumed office on December 27. Amid ambiguity about the VC’s status, the university wrote to the higher education department for clarification.

Sources said Raj Bhavan on Thursday sent a letter to JU seeking a ‘compliance’ report on how the administration is running after the chancellor removed Sau. A senior official said JU will send the report after a discussion as many works are pending. Meanwhile, 10 JU professors owing allegiance to TMC wrote a letter to the Sau requesting him to resume the VC’s office.

Acknowledging their request, Sau said, "It is true that there is a deadlock at the university. But at the same time a section of JU stakeholders are questioning the status of the VC. As an individual I do not have the capacity to go against everyone... I am stuck between two contradictory orders."

He added, "The registrar has also sought a clarification from the education department regarding the VC's status. I am waiting for that clarification so that I can sign files and resume office. If it comes, it will be a support for me in this situation."