

Title: Need to review the decision to shift the Indian Institute of Mass Communication at Dhenkanal to Utkal University, Orissa.

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO (DHENKANAL): Sir, the people of Dhenkanal Parliamentary Constituency and Orissa are very much agitated on the move to shift the Indian Institute of Mass Communication (IIMC), Dhenkanal to Utkal University. The IIMC was set up at Dhenkanal in 1993 with the objective of providing quality teaching, training and research in mass communication for the Eastern India. The Government of India took decision to set up similar institutes at Dimapur in Nagaland, Jhabua in Madhya Pradesh and Kottayam in Kerala. The IIMC, Dhenkanal shifted to its new campus on the hilltop in Dhenkanal town. Since then the Government of India has spent about Rs. 15 crore on construction activities and staff expenses. Other than Oriya, the students are getting teaching and training in other Indian languages. The Institute has proved itself a reputed one as its students have now occupied significant posts in several national dailies. So, it is not justified to propose for its transfer to Utkal University beset with financial and administrative problems . With the shifting, the noble objective for which the Institute was set up at an educationally backward region may not be achieved.

As such, I request the Government to stop any move to shift IIMC from Dhenkanal.
