

13th Assembly
3rd session
08-01-2024
VIII-(a)

THE TRIPURA BILL No. 15 of 2023.

MATA TRIPURA SUNDARI OPEN UNIVERSITY, TRIPURA BILL, 2024.

(AS INTRODUCED IN THE TRIPURA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY)

MATA TRIPURA SUNDARI OPEN UNIVERSITY, TRIPURA BILL, 2024.

A

Bill

to provide for the establishment and incorporation of '**MATA TRIPURA SUNDARI OPEN UNIVERSITY, TRIPURA**' in the State of **TRIPURA** and matters connected therewith and incidental thereto;

Whereas, it is felt necessary to establish, incorporate and regulate an Open University in the State of Tripura to facilitate, promote, Develop and advancement of higher education through open & distance learning, online & E-learning as well as skill Development, vocational education entrepreneurship development, skill based education in the emerging areas of manufacturing, textile, design, logistics and transportation, automation, maintenance, etc. and to raise skill level in various ancillary fields related to these areas and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto;

And whereas, to provide for higher education leading to excellence and innovation in such branches of knowledge as may be deemed fit primarily at undergraduate, postgraduate degree levels fully conforming to the concept of the University being established under this Act;

And whereas, with a view to keep pace with the rapid development in all spheres of knowledge in the world and country, it is essential to create study facilities in the State to provide state of the art education facilities to the youth at their doorstep so that they can make out of them human resources compatible to liberalized economic and social order of the world;

And whereas, rapid advancement in knowledge and changing requirements of human resources make it essential that a resourceful and quick and responsive system of educational development be created which can work with entrepreneurial zeal under the an essential regulatory set up and such a system can be created by allowing the private institutions engaged in higher education having sufficient resources and experience to establish Universities and by incorporating such universities with such regulatory provisions as ensure efficient working of such institutions;

And whereas, the Government of Tripura is committed to making a state of art institute of higher education at par with national and global standards to create educational opportunities for national and international students including meritorious students of North-Eastern region of India and Tripura;

And whereas, The Mata Tripura Sundari Open University, Tripura is to be a global inclusive University offering multi, inter and trans-disciplinary course with innovative learning methodologies with local ethos, addressing national goals and fostering global orientation, creating global leaders by advancing critical thinking and knowledge, from maintaining sustenance of life on earth to ensuring the benefit of a healthy planet to all;

- s) "National Skill Qualification Framework" means the qualification assurance framework for skills as notified by the Central Government;
- t) "Open and distance education" means education imparted by combination of any two or more means of communication, viz. broadcasting, telecasting, Information Communication technology, correspondence courses, online seminars, contact programmes and any other such methodology;
- u) "Prescribed" means prescribed by statutes or ordinances or regulations, as the case may be, made by or under this Act;
- v) "Regulating body" means a body established by the Central Government for laying down norms and conditions for ensuring academic standards of higher education, such as University Grants Commission, All India Council of Technical Education, National Council of Teacher Education, Medical Council of India, Pharmacy Council of India, National Council of Assessment and Accreditation, Indian Council of Agriculture Research, Distance Education Bureau, Council of Scientific and Indian Research etc. and includes the Government;
- w) "Rules" means the rules made by the State Government;
- x) "Sector Skill Council" means the Sector Skill Council recognized as such by the National Skill Development Corporation of Central Government;
- y) "State" means the State of Tripura;
- z) "State Government" means the Government of the State of Tripura in the administrative department;
- aa) "State Sector Skill Council" means Sector Skill Council recognized as such by the State Government;
- bb) "Statutes", "Ordinances" and "Regulations" mean respectively the Statutes, Ordinances and Regulations of the University made under this Act;
- cc) "sponsoring body" means the Himalayan Universal Education Foundation, New Delhi;
- dd) "Student" means a person enrolled in the University for taking a course of study for a degree, diploma or other academic distinction instituted by the University;
- ee) "Study centre" means a center established and maintained or recognized by the University within the State for the purpose of advising, counselling or for rendering any other assistance required by the students in the context of open and distance education;
- ff) "Skill centre or satellite center" means a training center established by the university anywhere in the State to provide vocational and skill training for the benefit of the industry, students, local population and all stakeholders ;
- gg) "University" means the Mata Tripura Sundari Open University, Tripura established under this Act;
- hh) "University Grants Commission" means the University Grants Commission established under the University Grants Commission Act, 1956 (Central Act 3 of 1956);
- ii) "University teachers" means professors, associate professors, assistant professors and such other persons as may be appointed for imparting instructions, trainings in the University or in any college or institution and are designated as teachers by the Ordinances;
- jj) "Teacher" means a Professor, Associate Professor, Assistant Professor, required to impart education, skills, practical training, or render guidance in any form to the students for pursuing a course of study of the University;

- a) To emerge as one of the foremost institution of quality in open & distance learning, online & E-learning, skill education recognized by respective statutory bodies of the Government;
- b) To develop qualified youth with skill proficiency and competency at different levels as per National/State qualifications of skill education;
- c) To promote skill education in an integrated and holistic manner with higher education to ensure pathways for progression and mobility;
- d) To provide opportunities for flexible learning systems and skill development;
- e) To frame credit framework for competency based skill and vocational education;
- f) To exchange expertise and best practices in support of skill developments efforts with any other college, institution, organization, university etc.;
- g) To disseminate knowledge/skill through seminars, conferences, executive education programmes, community development programmes, publications and training programmes;
- h) To undertake programme for the training and development of faculty members and teachers of the University and other institutions;
- i) To create entrepreneurs by providing necessary skill and support;
- j) To provide consultancy to Government, semi-Government, Public and Private industries;
- k) To create an Industry Academia partnership by inviting industry and institutions for mutual benefits;
- l) To ensure that the standard of Degree, Diploma, Certificates and other academic distinctions are not lower than those laid down by statutory regulatory authorities in India;
- m) To provide learning, teaching, capacity, capability and skills development in higher and technical education, covering a wide spectrum of domains and specializations as may be relevant from time to time including, inter-alia, Liberal Arts, Humanities, Science, Social Sciences, Life Sciences and Biotechnologies, Nano-Sciences and Technologies, Professional Disciplines such as Engineering, Technology, Management, Business and Commerce, Pharmacy, Retail, Banking, Hospital Administration, Architecture, Urban Development, Applied and Creative Arts, Vocational Education, Media, Information and Communication Technology and Education per se and their inter-disciplinary studies and development exclusively in open and distance mode ;
- n) To provide instructions, teaching and training in Higher and Technical Education, Arts, Sports, Culture, Film, Space Technologies, exclusively in open and distance mode;
- o) Create higher levels of intellectual abilities;
- p) To create and deploy new educational programme to promote creativity, innovation and entrepreneurship for inventing new ways for development and social reconstruction and transformation;
- q) To establish state-of-the-art facilities for education, vocational education, skill training and development;
- r) To carry out teaching and offer continuing quality education programmes ;
- s) To create centers of excellence for development in Science and Technology and socio-economic development, and for sharing knowledge and its application ;
- t) To use modern and post-modern processes, mechanisms and technologies for governance and management of learning, teaching, evaluating, developing,

- ll) To provide flexible and modular learning pathways thereby enabling multi entry and exit option;
- mm) to provide vertical mobility to students undergoing technical, vocational and skill based education and training by offering Diploma, Bachelor, Masters and Doctoral programs in high growth sectors and offer various specializations to prepare youth towards gainful employment;
- nn) to provide a flexible and open system of learning;
- oo) to conduct pedagogical and skill enhancement training and development programs for faculty and trainers who are involved in imparting vocational education and skill training;
- pp) to provide professional and development services to the industry, organizations, agencies and the society at large;
- qq) to provide skill development and training through a variety of programs leading to gainful employment and entrepreneurship;
- rr) To undertake skill assessments for the students studying in the University as well as for other students, agencies, training providers, institutions, industry and organizations; to organize training on conducting skill assessments for faculty, trainers, agencies, institutions and organizations ;
- ss) To encourage industrial participation through establishment of innovation labs, in-service training centers, workshops and active participation in all aspects of governance, curricula design, skill training, placements, internships, consultancy, joint projects, etc ;
- tt) To liaison or collaborate with various ministries, State bodies, departments, agencies or other statutory bodies at state, national, international level in order to understand education and skilling needs and to impart programme accordingly ;
- uu) To interact with industries for participation in curricula development, teacher training, practical, on-job training, skill assessments etc. ;
- vv) To undertake necessary or expedient action to pursue and promote the objectives of the University.

6. **Powers of the University-** The University shall exercise the following powers and perform the following functions, namely:-

- a) To make provisions and adopt all measures (including adoption and updating of the curricula) in respect of study, teaching relating to the courses through new innovative modes including on-line education mode;
- b) To institute and confer Degrees, Diplomas, Certificates, Awards, Grades, Credits and academic distinctions;
- c) To conduct and hold examinations;
- d) To provide for the Degrees, Diplomas, Certificates, equivalent or corresponding to the Degrees, Diplomas, Certificates of other recognized Universities, Boards or Councils;
- e) To offer any academic programme, as approved by its statutory bodies from time to time;
- f) To take all necessary measures for setting up the University campus;
- g) To set up central library, departmental libraries, museums and allied matters;
- h) To institute and confer honorary degrees as may be prescribed;

- objects similar to those of the University for such purposes as may be agreed upon, on such terms and conditions as may, from time to time, be specified;
- dd) To comply with and carry out directives issued by the State Government from time to time, with reference to above powers, duties and responsibilities of the University;
 - ee) To institute Degrees, Diplomas, Certificates and other academic distinctions on the basis of successful completion of respective Degree programme and award of credits for academic work evaluated through multiple methods of assessment;
 - ff) To make provisions for designing the program structures, curricula, credit system, teaching learning methodology, evaluation pedagogy and adopt all measures in respect of study, teaching relating to the programs offered by the University, in line with industry requirement ;
 - gg) To prescribe norms of minimum qualification for teachers, staff and Industry experts or resource persons to be appointed in teaching cadre and for training;
 - hh) To prescribe the evaluation methodology including modalities of industry based skill assessment, industry based projects, internships, on the job training and any related activities ;
 - ii) To institute choice based credit system in-line with skill development pedagogy, providing students the facility of multi-entry- exit and credit banking and transfer at all levels;
 - jj) To establish Department of Open, Distance Learning and Continuing Education, to offer Certificate, Diploma and Degree programme to students and working professionals;
 - kk) To introduce open and distance learning programs as per needs of the students and industry;
 - ll) To conduct multiple enrolment cycles for Open and Distance Learning programs being offered by the University ;
 - mm) To offer any existing programs presently under the aegis of one of the constituents of sponsoring body through Department of Open, Distance Learning and Continuing Education;
 - nn) The University shall be exclusively responsible to deal with open education and perform all such other functions as may be deemed necessary by the University for advancing the cause of open education or as may be incidental or conducive to discharge of powers & functions of University;
 - oo) To institute scheme for multi-entry and multi exit, recognition of prior learning, credit banking and transfer, credit waiver, vertical and lateral mobility and any other such scheme which promotes skill development at large;
 - pp) To establish Department of Recognition of Prior Learning to provide equivalency certificates, course exemptions, bridge courses, certificate of skill mapping, flexible learning pathways etc. to students;
 - qq) To undertake skill assessments for the students studying in the University as well as for other students, agencies, training providers, institutions, industry and organizations, desirous of undertaking third party assessments;
 - rr) To establish Vocational and Employment Guidance Cell to interact with local industries to understand the employment opportunities and emergent job

- iii) To establish and maintain such infrastructure including campuses and training centers;
- jjj) To institute and award fellowship, scholarships, exhibitions, prizes and medals;
- kkk) To collaborate with any other Indian or foreign university or institution in offering joint degree programmes for bridging skill education with higher education;
- lll) To promote national and international collaboration with institutions of skill education for the purpose of developing competency, knowledge and ability to global standards;
- mmm) To establish its own production house, incubation centre, retail house or service centre or any other centre which shall provide practical training to enhance skill level of youth; and
- nnn) To do all such things as may be necessary, incidental or conducive to the attainment of all or any of the objects of the University.
- ooo) To establish links, collaborations and partnerships with other higher education and institutions in India and abroad.

7. University opens to all classes, castes and creeds-

- a. The University shall be open to all persons irrespective of sex, race, creed, caste or class and no test or condition shall be imposed as to religion, belief or profession in admitting or appointing members, students, teachers, workers, or in any other connection whatsoever and no benefactions shall be accepted which in the opinion of the authorities of the University involves conditions or obligations opposed to the spirit and objectives of this provision;
- b. No citizen of India shall be excluded from any office of the university or from membership of any of its authorities, bodies or committees, or from appointment to any post, or from admission to any degree, diploma, certificate or other academic distinction or course of study on the ground only of sex, race, creed, class, caste, place of birth, nationality, religious belief or profession, or political or other opinion.

8. All teaching in the University shall be conducted by and in the name of the University in accordance with the Statutes, Ordinances and Regulations made in this behalf.

9. University to be self- financed- The University shall be self-financed and it shall not be entitled to receive any grant from the State Government.

10. Permanent Endowment & General Fund-

The Sponsoring Body/ University shall establish an endowment fund of least Rupees One Crore and deposit to the Department of Higher Education, Tripura in the form of Fixed Deposit for at least 5 years to be renewable.

11. The University shall also establish a General fund of Rupees fifty lakhs and deposit to the Department of Higher Education, Tripura in the form of Fixed Deposit for at least 5 years to be renewable;

12. General Fund of the University-The University shall also establish a fund, which shall be called the General Fund to which following shall be credited, namely :—

- (i) fees and other charges received by the University;

- (a) becomes insane and stands so declared by a competent court;
- (b) has been convicted by a court for any offence involving moral turpitude;
- (c) become an undischarged insolvent and stands so declared by a competent court;
- (d) become physically unfit and incapable of discharging the functions or duties of the office due to protracted illness or physical disability; or
- (e) has wilfully omitted or refused to carry out the provisions of this Act or has committed breach of any of the terms and conditions of the service contract or any other conditions laid down by the Statutes, or has abused the powers vested in him or if the continuance of the Chancellor in the office has become detrimental to the interests of the University;

Provided that, the Chancellor shall be given a reasonable opportunity to show-cause by the sponsoring body before taking recourse to action under clauses (d) and (e) for his removal from the said office.

16. The Vice-Chancellor-

- i. The Vice-Chancellor shall be appointed by the Chancellor, on such terms and conditions as may be specified by statutes, from a panel of three persons recommended by the Governing Body and shall, subject to the provisions contained in sub-section (7), hold office for a term of three years;
Provided that, after the expiry of the term of three years, the Vice-Chancellor shall be eligible for re-appointment for another term of three years;
Provided further that, the Vice-Chancellor shall continue to hold office even after the expiry of his term till new Vice-chancellor joins, however, in any case, this period shall not exceed one year;
- ii. The Vice-Chancellor shall be the principal executive and academic officer-of the University and shall have the powers of superintendence and control over the affairs of the University and shall execute the decisions of various authorities of the University;
- iii. The Vice-Chancellor shall preside over at the convocation of the University in the absence of the Chancellor;
- iv. If in the opinion of the Vice-Chancellor, it is necessary to take immediate action on any matter for which powers are conferred on any other authority by or under this Act, he may take such action as he deems necessary and shall at the earliest opportunity thereafter, report his action to such officer or authority as would have in the ordinary course dealt with the matter;

Provided that, if in the opinion of the concerned officer or authority such action should not have been taken by the Vice-Chancellor, then such case shall be referred to the Chancellor, whose decision thereon shall be final;

- v. If, in the opinion of the Vice-Chancellor, any decision of any authority of the University is outside the powers conferred by this Act or statutes, ordinances, regulations or rules made there under or is likely to be prejudicial to the interests of the University, he shall request the concerned authority to revise its decision within fifteen days from the date of decision and in case the authority refuses to revise such decision wholly or partly or

shall discharge his functions under the superintendence, directions and guidance of the Vice-Chancellor;

(iii) The Controller of Examinations shall be a full-time salaried officer of the University and shall work directly under the direction and control of the Vice-Chancellor of the University. His appointment shall be for a term of three years and he shall be eligible for re-appointment for a term not exceeding three years. The qualifications and experience for the purpose of selection of the Controller shall be such as may be prescribed by the statutes;

(iv) The Controller of Examination shall be responsible for

- (a) preparing and announcing in advance the calendar of examinations;
- (b) arrangement for printing of question papers;
- (c) arrangement for the timely publication of result of examinations and other tests;
- (d) taking disciplinary action where necessary against the candidates, paper-setters, examiners, moderators, or any other persons connected with examinations and found guilty of malpractices in relations to the examinations;
- (e) Reviewing from time to time, the results of University examinations and forward reports thereon to the Academic Council;

(v) The Controller of Examination shall exercise such other power and perform such other duties as may be prescribed or assigned to him.

20. The Finance Officer-

- i. The Chief Finance and Accounts Officer shall be the principal finance, accounts and audit officer of the University;
- ii. The Chief Finance and Accounts Officer shall be appointed by the Vice-Chancellor in such manner and on such terms and conditions of service as may be specified by the statutes;
- iii. The Chief Finance and Accounts Officer shall exercise such powers and perform such duties, as may be specified by the statutes.

21. Other officers-

- (i) The University may appoint such other officers as may be necessary for its functioning;
- (ii) The manner of appointment of other officers of the University, the terms and conditions of service of such officers and their powers and functions shall be such as may be specified by the statutes.

22. Authorities of the University

- (i) The following shall be the authorities of the University, namely:-
 - a) the Governing Body;
 - b) the Board of Management;
 - c) the Academic Council;
 - d) the Board of Examinations;

24. The Board of Management-

- (i) The Board of Management shall consist of the following members, namely
 - (a) the Vice-Chancellor;
 - (b) two members of the Governing Body, nominated by the sponsoring body;
 - (c) two Deans of the University, by rotation, to be nominated by the Vice Chancellor;
 - (d) three persons, who are not the members of the Governing Body, nominated by the sponsoring body;
 - (e) Three persons from amongst the teachers, nominated by the sponsoring body;
- (2) The Vice-Chancellor shall be the Chairperson of the Board of Management;
- (3) The powers and functions of the Board of Management shall be such as may be specified by the statutes;
- (4) The Board of Management shall meet at least once in every two months;
- (5) The quorum for meetings of the Board of Management shall be five.

25. The Academic Council-

- (i) The Academic Council shall consist of the Vice-Chancellor and such other members as may be specified by the Statutes;
- (ii) The Vice-Chancellor shall be the ex-officio Chairperson of the Academic Council;
- (iii) The Academic Council shall be the principal academic body of the University and shall, subject to the provisions of this Act and the rules, statutes and ordinances made there under, co-ordinate and exercise general supervision over the academic policies of the University;
- (iv) The quorum for meetings of the Academic Council shall be such as may be specified by the statutes.

26. The Board of Examination-

(i) The Board of Examination shall be the principal authority of the University for conducting the examination and making policy decisions in regard to organizing and holding examinations, scheme or policy for skill based assessments and weightage, improving the system of examinations, appointing the paper-setters, examiners moderators, skill assessors from industry, and also prepare the schedule of dates of holding examinations and declaration of results. The Board of Examination should also oversee and regulate the conduct of examinations in examination centers, skill centers, study centers or any center related to the University.

Explanation.—for the purposes of this section, the expression “schedule of examinations” means a table giving details about the time, day and date of the commencement of each paper which is a part of a scheme of examinations and shall also include the details about the practical examinations.

- (ii) The Board of Examination shall consist of following members namely

- bodies of the University, as may be constituted, from time to time;
- (b) the terms and conditions of appointment of the Vice-Chancellor and his powers and functions;
 - (c) the manner of appointment and terms and conditions of service of the Deans of Faculties, Registrar and Chief Finance and Accounts Officer and their powers and functions;
 - (d) the manner of appointment and terms and conditions of service of the employees and their powers and functions;
 - (e) the procedure for arbitration in case of disputes between employees, students and the University;
 - (f) the conferment of honorary degrees;
 - (g) the provisions regarding exemption of students from payment of tuition fee and for awarding to them scholarships and fellowships;
 - (h) provisions regarding the policy of admissions, number of seats in different courses including regulation of reservation of seats; and
 - (i) Provisions regarding fees to be charged from the students.
- (iii) The Government shall consider the First Statutes, submitted by the University and shall within four months from the date of its receipt give its approval thereon with such modifications, if any, as it may deem necessary.

33. Subsequent statutes-

- (i) Subject to the provisions of this Act and the rules made there under, the subsequent statutes of the University may provide for all or any of the following matters, namely :—
 - (a) creation of new authorities of the University;
 - (b) accounting policy and financial procedure;
 - (c) representation of teachers in the authorities of the University;
 - (d) creation of new departments and abolition or restructuring of existing departments;
 - (e) institution of medals and prizes;
 - (f) creation of posts and procedure for abolition of posts;
 - (g) revision of fees;
 - (h) alteration of the number of seats in different syllabi; and
 - (i) all other matters which under the provisions of this Act are to be specified by the statutes.
- (ii) The statutes of the University other than the First Statutes shall be made by the Board of Management with the approval of the Governing Body;
- (iii) The Board of Management may, from time to time, make new or additional statutes or may amend or repeal the statutes so made in the manner hereinafter provided in this section.

Provided that, the Board of Management shall not make any statute or any amendment of the statutes affecting the status, powers or constitution

35. Subsequent Ordinances-

- (i) All ordinances other than the First Ordinances shall be made by the Academic Council which after being approved by the Board of Management shall be submitted to the Governing Body for its approval;
- (ii) The Academic Council shall either modify the ordinances incorporating the suggestions of the Board of Management and the Governing Body or give reasons for not incorporating the suggestions, and shall return the ordinances along with such reasons, if any. The Board of Management and the Governing Body shall consider the suggestions of the Academic Council and shall approve the ordinances of the University with or without such modification and then the ordinances, as approved by the Governing Body shall come into force.

36. Publication of Statutes and Ordinances-

- i. Every Statute or Ordinances made under this Act will be made available in writing;
- ii. Each new statute or ordinances made under this Act shall be enforced as soon as they are made by the competent authority.

37. Regulations- The authorities of the University may, subject to the prior approval of the Board of Management, make regulations, consistent with the provisions of this Act, the rules, statutes and the ordinances made thereunder, for the conduct of their own business and of the committees appointed by them.

38. Admissions-

- i. Admission in the University shall be made on the basis of merit or any other basis as prescribed in Statutes and Ordinances;
- ii. Merit for admission in the University may be determined either on the basis of marks or grade obtained in the qualifying examination for admission and achievements in co-curricular and extracurricular activities or on the basis of marks or grade obtained in the entrance test conducted at State level either by an association of the Universities conducting similar courses.

39. Fee Structure- The University may, from time to time, prepare its fees structure and charge the fees from students considering the prevailing guidelines, Regulations of the State or Central Government and the Statutory bodies, as the case may be.

40. Schedule of Examinations

At the beginning of each academic session and in any case not later than 30th June of every calendar year, the University shall prepare and publish a semester-wise or annual, as the case may be, Schedule of Examinations for each and every course conducted by it and shall strictly adhere to such Schedule;

Provided that, if for any reason whatsoever, University is unable to follow this Schedule, it shall, as soon as practicable, submit a report to the Government giving the detailed reasons for making a departure from the published

46. Financial Condition-

The University will not be eligible for any grant-in-aid from the State Government.

47. Power of the State Government to Call for Information and Records-

- (i) It will be the duty of the University or any authority or officer of the University to furnish such information or records relating to the administration or finance and other affairs of the University as the State Government may call for;
- (ii) The State Government, if it is of the view that there is a violation of the provisions of this Act or the Statutes or Ordinances, made there under, may issue such directions to the University, as it may deem necessary.

48. Dissolution of University-

- (i) If the University proposes its dissolution in accordance with the law governing its constitution or incorporation, it should give at least six months written notice to the State Government;
- (ii) On receipt of information referred to in sub-section (i) the State Government should make such arrangements for administration of the University from the date of dissolution of the University till the last batch of students in courses of studies of the University complete their courses of studies in such a manner as may be prescribed.

49. Expenditure of the University during Dissolution-

- (i) The expenditure for administration of the University during the taking over the liabilities of the University will be met out of the Permanent Endowment Fund, the General Fund and the Development Fund;
- (ii) If the funds referred to in sub-section (i) are not sufficient to meet the expenditure of the University during the taking over of liabilities of the University, such expenditure may be met by disposing of the properties or assets of the University by the State Government.

50. De-recognition-

- (i) Where the State Government receives a complaint that the University is not functioning in accordance with the provisions of this Act, it shall require the University to show cause, within such time, which shall not be less than six months, referring a copy of the complaint, as to why the university should not be de-recognized;
- (ii) If, upon receipt of the reply of the university to the notice given under sub-section (i), the State Government is satisfied that a prima facie case of violation of the provisions or this Act in the functioning of the University, is made out it shall order such an enquiry as it deems necessary;
- (iii) For the purposes of an inquiry under sub-section (ii) the State Government shall, by notification, appoint an officer or authority as the enquiring authority to enquire into the allegation of violation of the provisions of this Act;

- (ii) Provided that no notifications, order under sub-section (i) shall be made after the expiration of period of three years from the commencement of this Act;
- (iii) Every order made under sub-section (ii) shall be laid, as soon as may be after it is made before the State legislature;
- (iv) No order made under sub-section (i) shall be called in question in any Court on the ground that no difficulty as referred to in that sub-section existed or was required to be removed.

STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS.

The 'MATA TRIPURA SUNDARI OPEN UNIVERSITY, TRIPURA' Act, 2024 aims at framing legislation for setting up of a private university in Tripura. The State has only three Private Universities at present, though it has made significant strides in the field of education during the last two decades. There has been phenomenal expansion of Primary, Secondary and Higher Secondary Education, particularly after Tripura attained Statehood in 1972.

2. In 1987, with the approval of the University Grants Commission, a University was started in Tripura. For extension of better facilities to the students of Tripura, the University has been converted into a Central University in 2007. Thereafter, one Private University (ICFAI University, Tripura) was established in 2004 followed by setting up of a State University (MBB University) in 2016. Now to further widen the opportunities of higher education in Tripura with better effective monitoring system, there is a strong demand of the people of Tripura to set up more Private Universities in addition to the Central University and one State University.

3. Three new private Universities namely 'The Dhamma Dipa International Buddhist University', 'Aryavart International University, Tripura', 'Techno India University, Tripura' have been set up in the State.

4. Setting up of MATA TRIPURASUNDARI OPEN UNIVERSITY, TRIPURA will provide instructions, teaching and training in higher education and to make provision for Advancement and Dissemination of knowledge, create higher levels of intellectual abilities in Nation, establish state of the art facilities for Education and Training in Tripura, carry out teaching and offer continuing education programmes, create centre of excellence for developments and sharing knowledge and its application, maintain the standards of degrees, diplomas, certificates and academic distinction in accordance with the norms laid down by the University Grants Commission and the related regulatory body or regulatory council, pursue any other objects as need of state Government, collaborate with other Universities, Government and Non-Government Organization towards fulfilment of the university Objectives. Hence, MATA TRIPURASUNDARI OPEN UNIVERSITY, TRIPURA Bill, 2024 is placed before the house.

5. The Bill will seek to achieve the aforesaid objectives.

(Prof. Dr. Manik Saha)
Chief Minister,

TECHNICAL REPORT

The subject matter of the Bill is relatable to Entry 25 of the Concurrent List (List III) of the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India. Therefore, the State Legislative is competent to make a law on this subject. The provisions of the Bill are not repugnant to any provision of the Constitution or any existing Central law. The Bill does not attract the provision to clause (b) of article 304 of the Constitution and therefore, previous sanction of the President shall not be necessary for introduction of the Bill. It is not a money Bill within the meaning of Article 199(1) of the Constitution of India, nor would it not involve any additional expenditure from the consolidated fund to the State. Therefore, prior recommendation of the Governor shall not be necessary for consideration of the Bill by the State Legislature under clause (1) or (3) of article 207 of the Constitution.

Secretary,
Law Department.

FINANCIAL MEMORANDUM

As this will be a purely privately managed University, there shall not be any requirement of fund for the maintenance of the proposed University from the Consolidated Fund of the State. The expenditure to built up and run the University will be met from the fund of the Company sponsoring the University.

(Raval H. Kumar)
Secretary,
Education (Higher) Department.

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