

HRD cold to grants

WHEN finance minister Pranab Mukherjee announced "special grants" to institutions such as IIT-Kharagpur and the Delhi School of Economics to loud cheers in Parliament, human resource development (HRD) ministry officials were far from ecstatic.



Their previous experience with such 'special grants' has left them worried. When Mukherjee last made allocations of ₹25 crore each for the Aligarh Muslim University centres at Murshidabad and in Kerala, the officials realised that ₹50 crore had to come out of the HRD ministry's own allocations. Prior to that, they found to their shock that ₹100 crore allocations each for the universities of Bombay, Calcutta and Madras had to be coughed up by the ministry from its existing funds. The long list of 'special grants' has left the ministry officials cold.