

Sibal to press for early probe report against AMU V-C

NEW DELHI: The Union Human Resource Development Ministry will press for early submission of a report of inquiry ordered by President Pratibha Patil in connection with allegations of financial irregularities against Aligarh Muslim University Vice-Chancellor P. K. Abdul Azis.

AMU court member Wasim Ahmed, who met Union HRD Minister Kapil Sibal here on Saturday and urged him to look into the matter urgently, accused Dr. Azis of adopting evasive tactics to delay completion of the probe.

"I told the Minister that the committee appointed by the President in February last year was to give its report in two months but it

- **'Dr. Azis delaying completion of probe'**
- **Hearing by two retired judges to end today**

could not do so till date due to evasive tactics adopted by Dr. Azis. He (Mr. Sibal) said he would ask for the report at the earliest," Mr. Ahmed said after the meeting.

The hearing against Dr. Azis by two retired judges is under way in New Delhi and the two-day proceedings will end on Sunday.

However, this is not the first high-powered panel appointed by the President to look into the matter.

She had ordered an inquiry on July 28, 2009, following complaints against Dr. Azis by eight members of

the AMU Executive Council and court. But due to certain differences between the committee members -- Justice (Retd.) Fakruddin and former Civil Aviation Secretary A. H. Jung -- and advocates representing Dr. Azis, the matter did not make any headway.

The committee was to table its report in three months.

A new committee was appointed on February 4, 2010, comprising Justice (Retd.) A. N. Divecha and Justice (Retd.) B. A. Khan.

"This panel was supposed

to give its report to the President within two months of starting the work but it could not do so due to lack of cooperation by Dr. Azis," Mr. Ahmed claimed.

According to the papers given to Mr. Sibal, the financial irregularities charges that Dr. Azis faces include "transferring Rs. 8 crore of the PF from a nationalised bank to a local bank and paying a higher scale to certain employees".

Questions have also been raised on his educational qualifications, research works and publications.

Dr. Azis is also alleged to have committed similar frauds during his tenure as the Vice-Chancellor of Cochin University in 2008.

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