

CFTRI against move to privatise research units

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Mysore, August 17: Council for scientific and industrial research (CSIR) employees and workers union have opposed the centre's move to privatise the research institutions.

Addressing newsmen yesterday on the eve of the 22nd annual conference of the federation, federation president KD Sharma and General secretary N Suresh Prasad, said the government's direction that CSIR labs should meet 50 per cent of the resources from within coupled with ban on recruitment, raises the suspicion that the union government is trying to close down these laboratories and privatise scientific research in the country.

The duo said the govern-

ment has given several indications some being their decision to abolish the office of the director general (technical development) within CSIR, asking laboratories to meet 50 per cent of the funds without modernising these laboratories to meet the challenge and banning recruitment, though at least 10 persons were retiring from the CSIR labs each month.

They urged the government to ward off these suspicions by making CSIR a statutory body and routing all technology imports through CSIR after proper scrutiny.

The three-day conference of the federation commencing at the central food technological Research institute (CFTRI) here on

Friday with around 150 delegates participating in it from various CSIR labs would be inaugurated by eminent economist Dr Ashoka Mitra. The conference will focus on the problems facing the nation after economic liberalisation.

It will also deliberate on the effects of liberalisation programme on research and development organisations like the CSIR, the status of workers both organised as well as unorganised, the proposed amendment to the Indian patent, laws, curbing of trade union rights and ban on recruitment. State minister for food and civil supplies S Nanjappa will be the chief guest, while CFTRI director Dr V Prakash will preside over.

cc Suresh Prasad

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