

Teachers' body opposes common academic calendar

Special Correspondent

MANGALORE: Association of Mangalore University College Teachers (AMUCT) has taken exception to the common academic calendar which the State government has decided to implement for undergraduate and post-graduation courses in conventional universities in the State from the academic year 2014-15.

President of the association Norbert Lobo told *The Hindu* that it would be highly difficult to implement the calendar as local factors such as festivals, weather seasons, number of courses offered by universities and colleges differed and universities, colleges would have to make changes based on local conditions.

Problems

Referring to the calendar released by Minister for Higher Education R. V. Deshpande at a press conference in Bangalore on Monday, Mr. Lobo said for example exam-

'It will be difficult to follow calendar as number of courses offered by varsities differed'

inations of first, third, and fifth semester undergraduate courses had been scheduled between October 25 and November 10. The classes of second, fourth, and sixth semesters had been scheduled to start immediately after five days, that is between November 15 and 30. Is it possible for teachers to evaluate the examination scripts in a minimum gap of five days or a maximum gap of 20 days and attend the classes simultaneously, he questioned.

Mr. Lobo said it took a month to evaluate commerce subjects, including BBM and B.Com. Courses, as the number of students pursuing those courses had increased. In addition to evaluating the papers, teachers were being posted as invigilators and su-

perintendents during the evaluation process. Hence, it would be difficult to attend classes. The president said the number of courses, combinations, and subjects offered by universities differed. Universities having more number of courses, combinations, and subjects would find it difficult to fall in line.

Festival time

He said colleges and universities in Mysore might not be able to conduct classes or examinations during Dasara time. At the same time, it might not matter to colleges and universities in Gulbarga region. It would be difficult for educational institutions to stick to a uniform academic calendar. Welcoming the move Y. Bhasker Shetty, honorary president, Degree College Principals' Associations in Karnataka, said some of the schedules in the calendar could be reworked to suit to all. The common calendar would particularly help students seeking inter-university transfer, he said.