

# Science labs go virtual at last

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, JAN. 30

Conventional laboratories are slowly giving way to 'virtual laboratories' for science students in many junior colleges at the Intermediate level.

According to information, the college managements prefer virtual labs to cut down on costs while, at the same time, enabling students to perform routine practicals any number of times on the computer till they achieve perfection.

While the Central Board of Secondary Education recently decided to set up virtual labs in its schools for Science practical classes, the Board of Intermediate Education (BIE) has already put into action virtual labs in 800-odd government and about 180 aided junior colleges across the state from this academic year.

The BIE has also devised a special software and has distributed CDs to colleges.

BIE now plans to extend the virtual lab concept to all junior colleges in the state, as most of the 5,000-

## Biology labs go for virtual lessons

- Virtual dissections help to cut down on costs and time
- Colleges face severe shortage of frogs, earthworms, cockroaches etc.
- No limits on repeating experiments

odd institutions are privately owned.

While the colleges face a dearth of supply in frogs, cockroaches, earthworms and others for dissection, many also reason that buying these add up to the overall expenditure. Colleges also prefer virtual labs to cut down costs on buying chemicals and other lab equipment, according to educationists. Mr G. Vishwanath, principal of a junior college in the city, said: "Students are able to perform dissection only a few times in conventional labs. But now students can take practical lessons several times, till they achieve perfection."