

**RAJYA SABHA**

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**\*SUPPLEMENT**

**TO**

**SYNOPSIS OF DEBATE**

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**(Proceedings other than Questions and Answers)**

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**Monday, December 01, 2014/ Agrahayana 10, 1936 (Saka)**

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**GOVERNMENT BILL**

**The Indian Institutes of Information Technology Bill, 2014-**

*Contd.*

**SHRI PAUL MANOJ PANDIAN:** I wish to make certain suggestions on the Bill. A suggestion in this regard is that research funding should not be made available only for the faculty of the Institute, but be also made available to the students. There must be a specific provision for participation of the students, to voice their views. Another important aspect is the independence of the Institute. I would suggest to the hon. Minister to explicitly state in the Bill that this Institute is not subject to the AICTE or the UGC. Clause 81B of the Bill provides that the Board of Governors can nominate two Members. Can an absolute discretion be given to the Board of Governors to nominate without prescribing qualifications for the persons to be nominated on the Board? Another point relates to clause 47 of the Bill, which deals with the Right to Information Act. I would suggest, we say, “the provisions of the Right to Information Act, 2005 shall apply to each institute and each institute shall be a public authority, as defined under Section 2(h) of the Right to Information Act.”

As stated by my friend, the innovative applications must be patented and they must also be protected by registration with the trademarks and patents. In cases of applications developed through public-private partnership, the sharing ratio should be clearly determined and interests of the institutions must be protected. Another aspect is that the Bill does not contain any procedure or provision for removal of a Director or a Registrar. That would create legal complications. Reservation for women in the body faculty and from the student body is desirable. That too should be considered.

**SHRI AMBETH RAJAN:** Technology-based education is a tool which gives more empowerment to human beings. A perusal of the Bill makes me wonder why there are so many power centres, that is, Board of Governors, Senate and Council. There is no mention about SCs/STs in these clauses of this Bill. I would like to know whether Government is of the view that SCs/STs do not deserve to be part and parcel of these institutions of national importance. In the case of Senate, I wish to suggest that out of three, one person should belong to SC/ST category. Then, I come to the Council. Here also, there is no representation of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. Clause 8 should have been drafted in a very categorical terms. Unless the specific provisions are provided, there are chances of students belonging to SC/ST/OBC category getting marginalized. There is no clarity regarding the faculty also. The Minister should look into all these issues.

**SHRI RITABRATA BANERJEE:** I rise here to support the Bill with some suggestions. The question of access comes to my mind. This question of access is very important when we speak about higher education. As far as the enrolment of students in the age-group of 17-23 years in higher education is concerned, even after so many years of independence, our country is still lagging behind. We must remember about the experience of the Central University Bill that was passed in the Fourteenth Lok Sabha. Many universities were created without any infrastructure, and more importantly, there was a motive of centralisation. It was a completely centralisation tendency. So, this aspect has to be kept in mind. There has been no provision regarding the reservation policy of SCs/STs, minorities and OBCs in the Board

of Governors. This is important because we have to ensure social justice. The Government will take adequate measures so that these issues can be addressed. Now, I come to the main stakeholders. The main stakeholders are the students. There is no provision for the students in any forum. In many such institutions, students, at times, are subjected to mental and physical torture. But no redressal forum is there for the students in this Bill. So, this question is very important because in the Senate, or in the Syndicate, the point regarding students' representation must be mentioned in the Bill.

**SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH:** I on behalf of my Party, stand here to support the IIT Bill, 2014 but I would like to express my concern regarding one thing. The IITs were the best institutions which were started in this country immediately after Independence. But what is the position today? We have no place in even amongst top 300 best universities of the world. We have a place in software but in hardware, we are missing. It is time that we should fully equip ourselves, and, through these IITs, we should create skilled youth. I am sorry to say that in our regular colleges, we do not have teachers to teach physics. The whole House should express concern about this. If we do not think about faculties, it will be too late. Without having faculties, we are demanding the IITs for every State. I hope that Government will pay attention towards the Eastern India and particularly Odisha. We are demanding two IITs under PPP mode and hope that Government will pay attention to this.

**DR. ASHOK S. GANGULY:** I support this Bill. The term 'excellence', I think, needs to be thought about. Why do we complain about not having institutions which are considered excellent? We must respect the system that we have in our country. The software industry in this country grew by stealth rather than by Government initiative. Today, we are proud of it and we want it to be a part of the system that we want to introduce in the country. I must also share with the hon. Minister the fact that between 100 to 150 thousand so-called engineers who are recruited by some of the leading IT companies in this country have to be retrained. So, I think, while we are supporting Centres of Excellence, we have to ask ourselves the question that if these companies, because of global competition, have to retrain 100 to 120

thousand engineers every year, what are these institutions doing? Hon. Minister, have to define what 'excellence' means and how these institutions will be judged in order to carry this great title? I must also mention to you that there are a lot of fly-by-night institutions in this country who have no authorization. Kindly define the right to have autonomy to the institutions which you are declaring as centres of excellence. The institutions must carry that burden with happiness but they must also deliver with seriousness. What is excellence? Kindly define it in the Bill

**SHRI D. RAJA:** We will have to look forward only then can we build a new India. Economic development will have to take place with the objective of social justice. There must be equal access to education. But it is not happening. The Right to Education Act is not applied at all levels, particularly at higher education level. The Bill seeks to provide four existing IITs with independent statutory status. How are Government going to develop our human resource?

We have been demanding six per cent of the GDP to be spent on education. Neither the previous Government nor the present Government is spending that much budgetary allocation on education. I want the Minister to clarify the clause 8 of the bill. I want to know whether reservation policy is applied or not in admission of students and in recruitment of faculty members. In constitution of Board of Governors, Senate, Council, etc. There is a need to give adequate representation to the SCs, the STs, the OBCs and also women. These are all institutions of national importance at higher level.

I demand and expect that the new Minister will give a categorical assurance that there will be adequate representation of SCs, STs and OBCs. The mindset is that you give a routine answer as non-availability of suitable meritorious candidates. Minds can change, but mindset cannot change. This is where this Bill has a lacuna and you will have to consider this point. In this regard, I moved an amendment also. Unless we address this question, whatever we do will not help the nation to progress.

**DR. SANJAY SINH:** The drastic changes in the field of education are always required with the changing time and changing demands of the country. Our country has achieved a very high level in IT and telecom sector. Whenever there is a slump in the world market several people in the colleges surrender the IT and opt for other subjects. The Government should provide the information with regard to the number of students, the employment available in the field etc. to the institutions and Universities after the due study and research. Today our students are going abroad for excellence and got settled there. This brain-drain should be checked by developing the infrastructure in the country. I also hope that the Hon. Minister will not ignore the Amethi and will bring the Bill after including the same.

**SHRI BASAWARAJ PATIL :** I support this Bill. There is brain drain in the country. Not a single university of India finds place in the famous hundred universities of the world. All are supporting this Bill. If Bill does not have a place for the last man, it has no values.

**SHRIMATI VANDANA CHAVAN :** The Bill is definitely an important step in India's path of digital revolution. I request the hon. Minister to make sure that the IITs or IIMs graduates are trained to start up units. Effort should be made to bridge the disconnect between academia, industry and the Government. Teaching profession should be made attractive as far as possible.

**SHRI K.T.S. TULSI :** I support the Bill. I am sure this Bill will help us in creating manpower of global standards. This Bill will not only give an independent status, but will also enable them to confer their own degrees. It will hopefully transform India's jansankhya into janshakti. The Bill has a futuristic approach. The Government must not intrude into the independence of these Institutes. It will prevent migration of our scientists.

**THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SMT. SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI), replying to the debate, said:** Today, this House has sent a signal to the country that in education the policy of politics would not be adopted rather the nationalist policy would be followed. Whatever step would be taken

by the government in the field of education, that would be under the purview of the constitution. Many Members raised their concerns about the reservation policy and the equal participation of women in the Indian Institutes of Information Technology. I assure you that the reservation policy will be applicable and equal participation for women would be ensured in these institutes. In schools and higher education, barrier free access would be provided to students who are differently and specially-abled. We are in the process of operationalising a council for industry-academia and higher education. We are exploring avenues of appointing and inviting industry experts as faculty into our institutions. We are concerned for the cyber security in these institutes. The IITs will become institutions of national importance and will be completely autonomous. We have already constituted Committees to look into the review of the functioning of not only UGC, but also of AICTE and NCTE. We are continuously working in the coordination of state governments. I would like to thank all the hon'ble Members across party lines who have supported this Bill.

*The motion for consideration of the Bill, was adopted.*

*Clauses etc. were adopted.*

*The Bill was passed.*

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## **SPECIAL MENTIONS**

### **1. Need to allow Regional Languages in High Courts**

**SHRI MANSUKH L. MANDAVIYA:** High Courts of several states are still using English in their judicial proceedings. Several states have requested for allowing their regional language in High Court proceedings, but hon'ble Supreme Court is not giving permission for the same. Government should bring a necessary amendment in Section 348 (2) of constitution to clear the way for this permission so that people can have full information about the disposal of their cases in their own language.

*(Shri Alok Tiwari, Shri Ananda Bhaskar Rapolu, Shri Tiruchi Siva and Dr. K.P. Ramalingam associated.)*

## **2. Need to Legalise Betting in Sports in the Country**

**SHRI K.T.S. TULSI:** Sports betting is the activity of predicting sports results. While a few States in the United States have made it illegal to operate a betting scheme, in Europe and United Kingdom it is not criminalized. Betting in cricket was first examined by Chandrachud Commission in 1997. We need to consider legalised betting so that country earn revenue from this human weakness. From the money earned from betting, we can augment infrastructure for other sports and tourism facilities.

## **3. Need to Stop Construction of Mekedatu Reservoirs on the River Cauvery and set up Cauvery Management Board and the Cauvery Water Regulation Committee**

**SHRI A.K. SELVARAJ :** According to the final orders of Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal, no State shall take any decision or action without consulting the riparian States. However, the Government of Karnataka, in violation of the said orders, is going ahead with the construction of two reservoirs at Mekedatu. Therefore, I urge the Government to not give any clearance for the same till the Cauvery Management Board and Cauvery Water Regulation Committee are formed.

*(Shri A. Navaneethakrishnan, Dr. V. Maitreyan, Shri K.R. Arjunan, Shrimati Vijila Sathyananth And Shri Paul Manoj Pandian associated.)*

## **4. Need for Shatabdi Express Between Thiruvananthapuram and Chennai with Limited Stops**

**SHRIMATI VIJILA SATHYANANTH :** On behalf of the people of South India, I request the Railway Minister to announce a Shatabdi Express between Thiruvananthapuram and Chennai with only five stops at Nagercoil, Tirunelveli, Madurai, Thiruchirappalli and Villipuram.

## **5. Need for Alternative Arrangements to Transport Rice to Ease the Impending Food Crisis in Mizoram**

**SHRI RONALD SAPA TLAU :** Mizoram is on the brink of virtually facing a famine in two months as the only railway link from Assam to my State has been completely shut down. Since only 15 per cent of the total monthly rice demand is produced from Mizoram, the remaining 85 per cent comes from outside from the FCI through rail transportation. I support the broad gauge construction idea, but there should have been better coordination between the Railway Ministry and the FCI.

## **6. Need to take Immediate steps to fill the Vacant Government Positions in the Country**

**PROF. M.V. RAJEEV GOWDA :** Key positions in the Government have been lying vacant for a while, but suitable replacements have not yet been found. Even the much-talked-about Lok Pal has not been set up despite the Lok Pal Act having been passed during the UPA term. CBI and ITBP are facing the problem of vacant posts. The CBDT has five vacancies with only Chairperson and just a Member. Moreover, no interlocutors have been appointed for China and Pakistan. More than 10 public sector undertakings remain headless. Several Joint Secretary positions in key Ministries have been left vacant. I request the Government to take immediate steps to fill these vacant positions.

*(Shri Ananda Bhaskar Rapolu and Shri Derek O' Brien associated.)*

## **7. Need to Grant Status of Autonomy to North East Indira Gandhi Regional Institute of Health & Medical Sciences in Shillong**

**SHRIMATI WANSUK SYIEM:** The people of the North-East states welcomed the establishment of North East Indira Gandhi Regional Institute of Health and Medical Sciences (NEIGRIHMS), Shillong by the Central Government modelled on the nation's premier healthcare institutions. Similar healthcare institutions at the State

capitals of Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Bihar and Odisha are similarly vested with autonomous powers. But NEIGRIHMS has not been granted this status though Union Minister of H&FW has endorsed this need. This will augur well for NEIGRIHMS to be accorded the status of an autonomous institution.

*(Shri Ananda Bhaskar Rapolu and Prof. M.V. Rajeev Gowda associated.)*

### **8. Need to Make Efforts for a Democratic Secular Federal World Government to Secure Human Rights for All**

**SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH:** Time has come to go in for a democratic secular federal world government to secure all human rights. It is a fact of life that there is no security of life and personal honour for each and everybody in the world. This is principally because there is no global authority or global government to ensure all the human rights. As there is no world order in the true sense of term, there is no criminal law to punish crimes committed by cross-border criminals. Similarly, crimes committed by sea pirates of Somalia are going scot free. The UN, as a world organization has singularly failed to maintain international peace and security. We must move towards formation of World Government by taking the mass use of present day special media and highlighting the basic principles upon which the Swiss Federal Secular Republican Democracy is based.

*(Shri Dilip Kumar Tirkey associated.)*

### **9. Need to Provide Facilities in E.S.I. Hospital and Medical College at Gulberga to Give Medical Services to People in Hyderabad Karnataka Region**

**SHRI BASAWARAJ PATIL:** The E.S.I. Hospital and Medical and Nursing College at Gulberga has been completed by the Labour Ministry and has been inaugurated eight months back. But there is no hospital service and the medical college is on the verge of closing. I request that immediate action be taken in this matter in

order to provide medical facilities to the people of Hyderabad-Karnataka region. It will save crores of rupees.

#### **10. Need to Give Compensation to Innocent Muslim Youth Recently Acquitted of Charges of Terrorism in Kurla, Mumbai and to Bring Communal Violence Bill**

**SHRI MUNAVVAR SALIM:** For the long time there is an atmosphere of fear by the slogans rendered by communal people from different parts of India. It is sad to note that on most of the occasions the conduct of Government officials on different posts is seen as communal and language used by Government officials is against the law, constitution and decorum. If Communal Violence Bill is passed alongwith Autonomy of State Governments Amendment Bill, it would definitely control such elements. They should take some action against the people who sow the seeds of language hatred, otherwise the main principle of harmony would be demolished and it would be harmful for the well-being of the nation. After the acquittal of the 8 muslim youths arrested for terrorism in Kurla region of Maharashtra, we can not return their 13 years but at least provide them financial help, which would definitely help the coming generation. The communal case should also be initiated against the officials who arrested them.

*(Shri Arvind Kumar Singh, Shri Alok Tiwari and Shri Ananda Bhaskar Rapolu associated.)*

#### **11. Need for inclusion of Srirangam in National Heritage City Development and Augmentation Yojana**

**DR. V. MAITREYAN:** I wish to make an appeal to the Government to include the holy town of Srirangam in Tamil Nadu in the National Heritage City Development and augmentation Yojana. Srirangam has a hoary past steeped in rich tradition and distinctive culture that made this temple town glorious since ancient times. Everyday, devotees and tourists throng this town from all parts of India. The number of devotees to the town increases greatly during the festivals like Vaikunta Ekadashi. The economy of Srirangam has begun thriving based on tourism. Srirangam deserves all attention

from the Centre for conservation and revitalisation of the rich heritage.

*(Shri A. Navaneethakrishnan, Shri Paul Manoj Pandian, Shrimati Vijila Sathyananth, Shrimati Sasikala Pushpa, Shri A.K. Selvaraj and Shri Ananda Bhaskar Rapolu associated.)*

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