

RAJYA SABHA

***SYNOPSIS OF DEBATE**

(Proceedings other than Questions and Answers)

Thursday, December 9, 2021/ 18 Agrahayana, 1943 (Saka)

OBITUARY REFERENCE

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, I refer with profound sorrow to a tragic incident of a helicopter crash yesterday, the 8th of December, 2021, at Nilgiri District of Tamil Nadu in which India's first Chief of Defence Staff General Bipin Rawat, his wife, Shrimati Madhulika Rawat and 11 other defence personnel lost their lives.

Born in March, 1958, at Pauri in Garhwal District of Uttarakhand, in a family of army veterans, General Rawat was commissioned on 16th December, 1978, into the Fifth Battalion of the Eleventh Gorkha Rifles. General Rawat had a vast operational experience, having served across a wide spectrum of combat and conflict situations in India and abroad. Not only did he serve on the various frontiers of the country but also went on to command a Multinational Brigade in UN Peace-Keeping Mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Equipped with more than four decades of distinguished military service, General Rawat also held several important instructional and staff positions. He also served as the Vice Chief of

*This Synopsis is not an authoritative record of the proceedings of the Rajya Sabha.

the Army Staff, from 1st September, 2016 to 31st December, 2016 and as the Chief of the Army Staff, from 31st December, 2016 to 31st December, 2019.

General Bipin Rawat had the distinction of being appointed as the country's first Chief of Defence Staff, an office which he had been serving since 31st December, 2019 till his sad demise. In the last two years, General Rawat, tried to bring in transformative reforms in the security architecture of our country. As an individual, he will always be remembered for his commitment to the nation as well as his troops.

General Bipin Rawat was the recipient of several medals and honours including the Param Vishisht Seva Medal, Uttam Yudh Seva Medal, Sena Medal and the Chief of Army Staff Commendation on two occasions. He was also awarded the Force Commander's Commendation twice while serving in the UN Peace-Keeping Forces.

In the passing away of General Bipin Rawat, the country has lost an outstanding soldier and an exceptional and distinguished military leader.

We deeply mourn the passing away of General Bipin Rawat, Shrimati Madhulika Rawat, and 11 other Defence personnel who lost their lives in the tragic incident. The loss of precious lives is indeed painful and unfortunate.

(One Minute's silence was observed as a mark of respect to the memory of the departed.)

MATTERS RAISED WITH THE PERMISSION OF THE CHAIR

1. Boundary Dispute Between Revenue Land and Forest Land in Madhya Pradesh

SHRI AJAY PRATAP SINGH: This issue is related to the orange land of Madhya Pradesh. All these lands are areas located alongside the forest boundary. Farmers are the occupied tenants on these lands. They are availing the benefits of various schemes of the

Government. Purchasing and selling of this land are also taking place and on the basis of these, farmers have also got financed their agricultural equipments like tractors. Despite this, the Department of Forest, from time to time, asserts its possession over these lands, evicts the tenant farmers from there and forcibly plant trees. There are lakhs of hectares of such land in entire Madhya Pradesh and lakhs of farmers are affected there. I demand from the State Government and the Central Government that a commission or committee should be constituted, which would identify these lands and resolve this dispute.

(Dr. Amar Patnaik and Dr. Sasmit Patra associated.)

2. Need to Constitute All India Judicial Services

DR. NARENDRA JADHAV: Article 312 confers powers on the Rajya Sabha to initiate the process for setting up an All India Judicial Services. I urge the Government to consider for setting up of All India Judicial Services on the lines of IAS and other Allied Services, forming a 'Judicial Consortium' and forming Union Judicial Service Commission (UJSC). I also propose that the Commission be vested with power to conduct exams, interviews for recruitment to the AIJS on the directions of Judicial Consortium. The Chairperson of the UJSC should be the retired Chief Justice of India.

(Dr. Fauzia Khan, Shrimati Vandana Chavan, Dr. Amar Patnaik, Shri Sujeet Kumar and Dr. Sasmit Patra associated.)

3. Need to Make National Competitive Exams Inclusive for Students from Underprivileged Backgrounds

DR. AMAR PATNAIK: The technical preparations provided by the coaching institutions are expensive and often inaccessible to students from rural and underprivileged backgrounds. Hon. Chief Minister of Odisha wanted that common entrance examinations, like NEET and JEE must be harmonised keeping in mind the syllabus of State high schools and CBSE in order to provide a level playing field to all aspirants. Due to pandemic the situation has been extremely exacerbated from what the position was earlier. This will truly eliminate merit in the long run and deny justice to lakhs

of our children. I demand that the entire examination pattern of NEET and JEE should be made more inclusive.

(Dr. Fauzia Khan, Shrimati Vandana Chavan, Shri Sujeet Kumar and Dr. Sasmit Patra associated.)

4. Construction of Large Number of Dams at Source of River Brahmaputra by China

SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA: Brahmaputra Valley civilization is the ancient civilization of our country. But this civilization, today, is facing a very serious threat from China. The Brahmaputra is our lifeline but due to construction of big dams, the water in the river Brahmaputra has declined and if it is dried due to decline of water, our civilization will also dry. I request the Government to take up the issue with China immediately and stop China from diverting water of river Brahmaputra and save the Brahmaputra Valley civilization.

(Dr. Sasmit Patra, Dr. Fauzia Khan, Dr. Amar Patnaik and Shrimati Vandana Chavan associated.)

5. Need to Repeal the Places of Worship (Special Provision) Act, 1991

SHRI HARNATH SINGH YADAV: The Places of Worship Act, 1991 provides that the existing status of places of worship as on August 15, 1947, will not be changed. In this law, Shri Ram Janmabhoomi located in Ayodhya has been made exceptional. The then Government has legalised the places of worship, including the Shri Krishna Janmabhoomi, which were forcibly occupied by foreign invaders. This Places of Worship Act is completely illogical and unconstitutional and is cruel to the religious sentiments of Hindus, Sikhs, Jains, Buddhists. I request the Government to repeal this law immediately.

(Shri Mahesh Poddar, Shri Vijay Pal Singh Tomar, Shri Ramkumar Verma and Dr. Amar Patnaik associated.)

6. India's Rank in Global Hunger Index and Severe Malnutrition in Children Particularly among Girls in Tribal Areas

SHRI PRASANNA ACHARYA: India's rank in the Global Hunger Index has consistently been worsening in the last ten years. In 2021, India's rank is 101 out of 116 countries. It is a very alarming condition. The immediate impact of hunger and malnutrition is child mortality. Malnutrition is the cause of 69 per cent of child mortality in India. The lack of accountability of Government officials in remote and inaccessible areas plays a pivotal role in the status of delivery of State programmes and other schemes. The Mid-Day Meal programme in Government schools often fails to meet the standard of nutritious values. Under-nutrition among adolescent girls is more alarming.

(Several hon'ble Members associated.)

7. Need for Creation of Integrated Tri Service Theatre Command to Secure International Borders

DR. ASHOK BAJPAI: The purpose of the Government of India behind the establishment of the CDS was to further strengthen the military power of our country by integrating the three Services. We envisage to form an Integrated Theater Command by forming three to five Theater Commands, in which the three Forces as well as the Para Military Forces would be under one command. At least three Theater Commands should be formed at our strategic points. This will be in the interest of the security of the country and its borders. This would be under the Chief of the then Integrated Theatre Command. I expect the government through the House to constitute an Integrated Theater Command for the defence of the country on a priority basis.

(Shri Sujeet Kumar, Dr. Amar Patnaik and Dr. Sasmit Patra associated.)

8. Need for Introduction of Proportionality System and Revision of Quota for Rajya Sabha Members for Admissions in Kendriya Vidyalayas

SHRIMATI ROOPA GANGULY: Each MP is allowed to recommend ten children for admission in Kendriya Vidyalayas. Their number should be based on the proportion, population and area. Parents who do not even know how to read and write well, they also dream that their child will learn English, Hindi, their regional language. He will progress in life. Such a good opportunity should never be snatched from the hands of the children. So, the data should be presented as to how it will bring transparency for the children. Along with the future of a child, primary education is the dream and future of the life of the whole family. Therefore, I will request the House and the Government as well that this number should be increased.

(Several hon'ble Members associated.)

9. Need to Ensure Representation of OBCs in Local Bodies in Maharashtra

DR. VIKAS MAHATME: It is unfortunate that in Maharashtra the representation of Other Backward Classes has been abolished in the municipal and local municipal corporation, zilla parishad and zilla panchayat elections. The reason for this is that in 2019, the Supreme Court had asked the Maharashtra government to constitute a Backward Classes Commission and through it to collect empirical data. But neither of these things has been done. Commission for Other Backward Classes was also established 5 months ago, but it was not even given space and funds were not allocated to it. In a way injustice is being done to OBCs and state representation is ending forever. Therefore, my request to the government is that the National Commission for Backward Classes should take cognizance of this suo motu and take action against it and give appropriate instructions to the Maharashtra government.

(Shrimati Vandana Chavan, Dr. Fauzia Khan, Dr. Sasmit Patra and Dr. Amar Patnaik associated)

10. Need to Include the Contribution of Tribal Leaders of Freedom Struggle in the Curriculum of Schools and Universities

SHRIMATI SAMPATIYA UIKEY: I urge through the House that in the year 'Azadi Ke Amrit Mahotsav', our Jannayaks associated with our tribal movements, the upliftment and welfare of tribal society should be included in the curriculum at different levels in our school education and at the university level. This will be a true tribute to our 'Dharti Aaba' Lord Birsa Munda. I request you through the tribal society of the whole country and at the same time urge upon the Government to constitute a committee and expedite the work.

(Several hon'ble Members associated.)

11. Need for Giving Interim Financial Assistance to Puducherry in view of Damages caused there due to Heavy Floods

SHRI S. SELVAGANABATHY: Puducherry and Karaikal regions have been battered by the recent heavy rains and consequent flooding during the last one month. Incessant rains have made life of people very miserable. Hectares of land under cultivation have been inundated, affecting about large number of farmers. Small bridges and irrigation canals have also been damaged very badly. After the visit of the Central team, the intensity of the rain had further worsened, posing a threat to the life of the people of Puducherry. I, once again, appeal to the Government of India to send another team of officers to assess the quantum of damage. Government of Puducherry is reeling under severe financial crisis and it would be extremely difficult for the Government to divert funds for managing the damages caused by unprecedented rainfall

(Dr. Sasmit Patra, Dr. Amar Patnaik and Dr. Fauzia Khan associated.)

12. Need for Legislation to Control Jat/Khap Panchayats

DR. FAUZIA KHAN: These caste-based panchayats are arbitrarily taking law into their own hands. They are ostracizing the people, humiliating them and socially outcasting them. We should come up with a legislation. They should be abolished completely

because they are going against the Constitution of India. I request this House that we should come up with a legislation to abolish this system.

(Several hon'ble Members associated.)

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

Military Helicopter Crash at Nilgiri, Tamil Nadu on 8th December, 2021

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI RAJNATH SINGH): With profound grief and heavy heart, I rise to convey the unfortunate news of the crash of the military helicopter in the noon of 8th December 2021, with India's first Chief of Defence Staff, General Bipin Rawat onboard.

General Bipin Rawat was on a scheduled visit to Defence Services Staff College, Wellington to interact with the Student Officers. The Air Force Mi 17 V 5 helicopter took off from Sullur Air Base at 11:48 AM yesterday and was expected to land at Wellington at 12:15 PM. Air Traffic Control at Sullur Air Base lost contact with the helicopter at approximately 12:08 PM. Subsequently, few locals spotted a fire in the forest near Coonoor and rushed to the spot where they observed the wreckage of military helicopter engulfed in flames. Rescue teams from the local administration in the vicinity reached the site and attempted to recover the survivors from the crash site.

All those recovered from the wreckage were rushed to the Military Hospital, Wellington. Latest reports have confirmed that out of the total 14 persons onboard the ill-fated helicopter, 13 have succumbed to their injuries. The dead include the spouse of the Chief of Defence Staff Smt. Madhulika Rawat, his Defence Adviser Brig Lakhbinder Singh Lidder, Staff Officer Lt Col Harjinder Singh and nine other Armed Forces personnel including the Air Force helicopter crew. Their names are Wing Commander Prithvi Singh Chauhan, Squadron Leader Kuldeep Singh, Junior Warrant Officer Rana Pratap

Das, Junior Warrant Officer Arakkal Pradeep, Havildar Satpal Rai, Naik Gursewak Singh, Naik Jitendra Kumar, Lance Naik Vivek Kumar, Lance Naik B Sai Teja. Group Captain Varun Singh is on life support in the Military Hospital at Wellington and all efforts are being made to save his life.

A tri Service enquiry regarding the incident has been ordered by Indian Air Force, headed by Air Marshal Manvendra Singh.

The Chief of Defence Staff would be cremated with full military honours.

I, on behalf of the House, pay homage to the deceased persons and express condolences to the bereaved families.

SPECIAL MENTIONS

1. Demand for Adequate Health Facilities for the Tribal Community of Attapadi in Kerala

SHRI SURESH GOPI: I wish to raise certain challenges and hardships of the adivasis. It is a hard reality that even after 74 years of independence, the community is struggling to sustain. Adivasis' healthy birth rate is decreasing tremendously. Very recently, there was an instance of three infant deaths in a week that has added to the total deaths of 12 infants in this year. We need to take urgent measures to reduce the Infant Mortality Rate and improve the health of people especially pregnant women in the tribal hamlets. I request the Union Tribal Ministry to have a Tribal Protection Bill. If the adivasi tribal community is not safeguarded from malnutrition and ill health, this would pose a threat to their very existence. I humbly request that the matter be seen as a serious one.

(Shri P. Wilson, Dr. Amar Patnaik and Dr. Sasmit Patra associated.)

2. Demand for Re-Demarcation of Development Blocks in the Country for Better Administration

Shri Kailash Soni: With the construction of new roads, bridges, colleges, schools, markets, mandis, the boundaries of the development blocks have become unusable from the point of view of balancing the regional facilities. It is very necessary to reorganize the development blocks in the whole country from the point of view of public administration also. The Government of India should re-demarcate the development blocks at the earliest. It is necessary to give instructions to the Government of India regarding this in public interest through you.

(Dr. Amar Patnaik and Dr. Sasmit Patra associated)

3. Demand for Expansion of Bijli Bamba Bypass Road and Construction of A Flyover Connecting Hapur Road to Delhi Road near Railway Crossing in Merrut

SHRIMATI KANTA KARDAM: The Bijli Bamba bypass connecting Hapur Road to Delhi Road in Meerut is about seven kilometres long. There is also a railway crossing on this road, but due to the small width of this road and small canal on the road side, it remains jammed for hours and road accidents happen on it every day. Due to this people have to face difficulties. Therefore, I demand from the government that this road be widened and flyovers constructed at the railway level crossing, so that people have convenience in movement and accidents can be avoided.

(Dr. Sasmit Patra and Dr. Amar Patnaik associated.)

4. Demand for Disaster Resilient Power Infrastructure for Coastal Areas Prone to Cyclonic Disruptions

SHRI PRASHANTA NANDA: Tropical cyclones and high-impact tropical storms often cause devastation in coastal areas. This year, extremely severe Cyclonic Storm 'Tauktae', Cyclone 'Gulab', Cyclone 'Jawad' hit coastal States, including Odisha severely. In India, cyclone disrupts power supply systems. The city almost gets paralysed for want of power. Drinking water crisis occurs due to which the city

dwellers face immense problems to lead a normal life. The offices and banks become inoperative. I urge upon the Government to build a disaster-resilient power infrastructure and to develop a calamity-proof power network in the coastal districts, prone to cyclones, including the State of Odisha.

(Dr. Sasmit Patra and Dr. Amar Patnaik associated.)

5. Need for Uniform Civil Code

SHRI K.C. RAMAMURTHY: India has been striving hard for gender equality. The objective of a uniform civil code is to unify fragmented personal laws and cover civil and human rights issues. A uniform civil code is needed as marriage, divorce, religion related various standards are not uniform. I appeal to the Government to analyze the best features from all religions, compile and adopt them in the form of Uniform Civil Code.

(Several hon'ble Members associated.)

6. Demand for Enacting a Legislation to Ensure MSP to Farmers

SHRI VISHAMBHAR PRASAD NISHAD: Today the farmer's back has broken due to the increase in the prices of fertilizers, seeds, irrigation and diesel in the whole country. Due to shortage of DAP fertilizer in many states including Uttar Pradesh, farmers are unable to sow their Rabi crops. In all the paddy-purchasing centres, under weighing is being done with the farmers. Paddy is not being bought at MSP rate. Farmers are committing suicides. Therefore, Legislation on MSP for the produce of the farmers is necessary. I demand that legislation on MSP should be made to give fair price to the farmers of the whole country for their produce and agriculture should be promoted.

(Several hon'ble Members associated.)

7. Demand to maintain Public Sector Status of HLL Biotech Limited

SHRI M. SHANMUGAM: The HLL Biotech Limited vaccine manufacturing company is the biggest public sector vaccine

manufacturing unit in Asia. The Central Government mandated establishment of 'Integrated Vaccine Complex' at Chengalpattu to produce life-saving and cost effective vaccines. It is understood that the Government has decided to sell the IVC to private parties. The hon. Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu has requested the Government to either run the Biotech Lab on a full scale or to hand it over to the State Government to run it. It is urged that the Central Government may desist from privatizing the Biotech Lab and continue to run it in public interest.

(Shri Vaiko and Dr. Sasmit Patra associated.)

GOVERNMENT BILL

The National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research (Amendment) Bill, 2021

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE; AND THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (DR. MANSUKH MANDAVIYA), moving the motion for consideration of the Bill, said: Presently the Pharma sector has become a developed sector for India. Research in Pharma should be done according to the need of the country in future. That is why NIPER was established for education and research in Pharma sector in the country. We have to make them stronger. They need to be improved with time. Today there is a need to introduce other courses in NIPERs apart from postgraduate courses. How the link between the academia and the institution is created, how people can use it, how the industry sector can benefit from it, we have come up with three-four amendments, keeping in view all these aspects. I expect the House to give its detailed opinion on this and pass it.

SHRI NEERAJ DANGI: This Bill provides for the establishment of a Council, which is to coordinate the activities of all the institutions covered under the Bill, as well as to develop and maintain standards of Pharmaceutical education and research. It is a matter of great sadness that the work of Pharmaceutical research is

being carried out more effectively in other developing and developed countries than in India. Therefore, there is a need to pay utmost attention to Pharmaceutical education and research in India as well. It is definitely necessary to bring this amendment Bill, but its shortcomings also need to be rectified so that the country can get the benefit of this Bill in true sense. Considering the huge population of our country, the combined annual intake capacity of NIPERs must be increased so that more people can get the benefit of Pharmaceutical education and research. In view of the huge inequalities prevailing among all NIPERs, it is imperative to set standards for them to ensure that each NIPER meets the standards of an institution of national importance. At least one person belonging to Scheduled Caste or Scheduled Tribe should be included in the Board of Governors and suitable provision should be made for this in the Bill. This will also make social inclusion possible. It should also be ensured that those who are nominated as council members have full experience in the medical or pharmaceutical sector. The appointment of Directors by the Council should be done only after the approval of the President of India, such a provision should also be made for NIPERs. Along with the representatives of the state governments, the state legislators and other public representatives should also be included in the Council or Board of Governors. Out of the seven proposed NIPERs, only Mohali NIPER in Punjab has been established so far. The Madurai NIPER project is pending for eight years. EFC should accord priority to the requests for enhancement of facilities in the existing NIPER. The Central Government should ensure that National Institutes of Pharmaceutical Education and Research are established on the lines of Medical Colleges of AIIMS in every state of the country, so that the states can directly get their benefits. If we request the Chief Minister of Rajasthan for the establishment of NIPER there, then he will surely approve the land allotment without any delay. I believe that other states will also not go back for allotment of land in the same manner. I request that when the establishment of National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research is started in other states also, then the most backward districts of Rajasthan, Pali, Sirohi etc. should be selected so that there may be employment generation also

with development. The Council must meet at least once in six months every year for effective coordination among all NIPERs and to promote and share knowledge among them. Inter-NIPER transfers of Directors and faculty members will enhance connectivity between different NIPERs and also help in transfer of administrative and academic efficiency of one NIPER to another. The Government should clearly define those areas in which it will direct and in which areas it will not interfere so that the autonomy of the institutions is maintained and these higher institutions can work independently for the development of education and research in the country. The NDA government has completely destroyed the fundamentals of research in universities by cutting funds.

PROF. RAM GOPAL YADAV: My apprehension is that whenever an institution was given the name of 'Institution of National Importance', then the reservation for OBC, SC and ST was abolished. The Minister may please clarify this position in his reply. In addition, most of the members in the Council to be constituted under the Bill are the people associated with the Central government. At no place in the Bill, Statement of Objects has been mentioned. At least one person from SC, ST and OBC must be included in the Council, only then the interests of these classes will be protected. The Government should take care of protecting the interests of the backward, downtrodden and tribal people.

DR. ANIL JAIN: Till now, only Mohali NIPER had got the status of national importance in the country. Now through this Bill, all the seven NIPERs are being given the status of national importance. This was necessary to improve the quality of their education and research and to increase the coordination between them. Therefore, this amendment of the Government is commendable. For this, arrangements have been made that funds, management, admission and courses will be operated through the Admission Council. Such provisions have been made in the Bill. In this, such arrangement has been made that this country, medical field, pharmaceutical industry will run properly. Therefore, the number of board of governors has been limited in this. A council has been established in it. In this, by

connecting the seven NIPERs through the council, their quality, their working style can be taken forward. When the seven NIPERs are governed by a council, the different types of examinations and their allocation of degrees can be done properly. An honorary award has also been arranged for the deserving students, who are research scholars. In this, arrangements have also been made for the upgradation of teachers. The most important thing in the pharmaceutical industry is the API. We depend on other countries of the world for APIs. If we develop APIs ourselves, we can truly lead the world. Now we will develop our own APIs in the country. Through research of NIPER and in collaboration with industry these APIs will be developed. If we are self-reliant in the field of API, then surely we will be able to make cheap medicines here. With this we will definitely move towards self-reliance. If any other country provides cheaper API, then the Government of India has made such an arrangement that the Government of India will fill the gap, so that our manufacturer can get cheaper API from any country in the world. Research foundation has been set up by the Government and in this also the emphasis is on research. The distribution of generic medicines is done through Jan Aushadhi Kendras in the country. Today there are 8,500 Jan Aushadhi Kendras in the country, which provide cheap medicines to the poor of the country. More than 2,400 medicines are now available at these centers and 204 types of surgical products are also available. The generic medicines which are produced in our country go all over the world. Today, India supplies 40 percent of generic medicines to America. Today India remains the world leader in terms of vaccination research. All types of vaccines in the world are made in India. DNA vaccine ZyCoV, RNA vaccine and sniff vaccine are made in India. India is the only country where all types of vaccines are going to come. We will also make India a leading country in the world through research. We will not only sell medicines, but we will make India a world leader in pharmaceutical industry by manufacturing medicines, providing APIs, providing intermediate substances and doing research like vaccines. NIPERs will be governed in the same way as IITs are governed. I support this bill.

SHRI ABIR RANJAN BISWAS: This Bill aims to amend the National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research Act, 1998. We know that under this Act itself, the institute was set up in Punjab and was designated as the institute of national importance. Through this Bill, six more National Institutes of Pharmaceutical Education and Research are being designated as the institute of national importance. The Bill proposes to appoint three Members of Parliament to the Council. The Members nominated as Members must have prior exposure to the medical or pharmaceutical field. This recommendation has not been taken care of. Even though all NIPERs are declared as institutes of national importance, there are three significant differences among NIPERs in terms of infrastructure, courses offered, campus space and academic and research outputs. It was suggested that specific parameters be developed to ensure that every NIPER meets the standards of an institute of national importance. It may be noted that except the institute in Punjab, the others do not even have their permanent campuses and we are giving them the status of institute of national importance. The Bill does not allow for transfer of Directors and academic members between NIPERs. The Committee highlighted that transfers among NIPERs may enable NIPERs to share and learn much from one another. This has been neglected. It has been suggested that the Bill should give the Department of Pharmaceuticals the authority to allow members to transfer amongst themselves. There is need for more information dissemination on courses related to pharmaceutical education and research. It should be ensured that parity is maintained between the national pharmaceutical institutes and the private institutes offering courses on pharmacy. A common guideline and structure should be laid out to ensure that the quality of education is the same across all the institutions. It has also not been taken care of. The Drug Controllers of the concerned States should have been accommodated. They have not been accommodated. These are all my suggestions.

***SHRI K.R.N. RAJESHKUMAR, making his maiden speech, said:** This Bill has the provisions to include the

* Spoke in Tamil.

representatives belonging to the community of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the Board of Governors. But, in the original Bill, this provision was not there. One Pharmaceutical Institute was proposed to be set up at Madurai, many years ago. But, no financial allocation has been made so far, to implement the proposal. I request the Government to allocate sufficient funds to initiate construction of this Institute at Madurai. The NIPER is a research Institute. I would like to point out the importance of coordination among researchers of various research bodies in the Board of Governors. The NIPER is a research institute under the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilisers. There are some research bodies under Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. There has to be coordination among the members of these research institutes. Researchers from various research institutes should find representation in the Board of Governors of all research institutes. We import essential medical equipments from abroad. We are dependent on foreign countries for essential medical equipments. Institutions such as NIPER should undertake many researches in order to achieve self sufficiency in the pharmaceutical industry of India. In order to enable such self sufficiency, proper allocation has to be made to this institute. We have many branches of traditional medicine such as Siddha, Ayurveda etc. The NIPER institute should conduct special courses for such branches of traditional medicine. The NIPER institute can undertake the additional responsibility of enabling researches in the field of traditional medicine and to conduct post graduation courses in traditional medicine. Autonomy cannot be achieved only by announcing in the Parliament about setting up of Institutes. Announcements have to be implemented on time, in real terms. Sufficient fund has to be allocated to them on time, to enable them function in an efficient way.

SHRI SUJEET KUMAR: I support this Bill. I was listening to the reply given by the Hon'ble Minister in Lok Sabha. He was speaking about Jan Aushadhi Kendra. But keeping in mind our relations with China, there is a need to encourage research in the country. I would also like to request to substantially increase the budget on pharma research. My humble request to the Government is to consider setting up more NIPERs in rural and tribal pockets of the

country. My final suggestion is why we do not have NIPER's short programmes in indigenous traditional medicine and ancient healing practices? I request the hon. Minister to consider setting up a NIPER centre in Kalahandi district of Odisha and consider it making mandatory to have an expert member of SC/ST community in the Board itself.

SHRI AYODHYA RAMI REDDY ALLA: The Indian pharmaceutical industry is poised for a tremendous growth in the coming decade. India has the knowledge and the experience to produce global medicines. I think through the National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research (Amendment) Bill, an important initiative is being taken. The features of the Bill are that this Bill declares and also provides standardisation of six additional institutions at Ahmedabad, Hajipur, Hyderabad, Guwahati, Kolkata and Rae Bareilly apart from Mohali as institutions of national importance. The benefits of this Bill are that the proposed changes will ensure a dynamic dialogue between the pharmaceutical industry and academia. It will also widen the scope of the number of courses run by such institutions. NIPER should work on the right kind of design and model for the education system, skill development and strategies which the industry demands. The proposed amendments in the Bill is a welcome step in the right direction keeping in view the enormous business potential of the pharma sector. But the need of the hour is to upgrade the country's talent in the value chain and high-end research to keep pace with the best in the pharma domain globally. We support the NIPER (Amendment) Bill, 2021.

SHRIMATI JHARNA DAS BAIDYA: This Bill will help in coordinating the activities of all such institutes to ensure coordinated development of the pharmaceutical education and research and maintenance of standards in the country. I request that all attempts should be made to set up pharmaceutical colleges in different districts to make these courses available to students at the rural level. I wish to make a suggestion and request the hon. Minister to set up an institute of pharmaceutical sciences in Tripura to help students of the community to pursue their studies in pharmaceutical education.

DR. M. THAMBIDURAI: I am very happy to support the Bill introduced by the hon. Health Minister to constitute the council and make some amendments to the National institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research Act. The main aim of the proposed council is to nurture and promote quality and excellence in pharmaceutical education and research. I appreciate the objectives. But there is a need to exclude AICTE from the expert body as it is taking care of engineering education. It is high time to ensure that council is allowed to establish new pharmaceutical colleges and other institutions. If there are more institutions, there will be more research and more teaching. I would, once again, like to request the hon. Minister to re-allow starting of new institutions in order to allow research activities.

SHRI RAM NATH THAKUR: I congratulate the honourable Minister for increasing the number of educational institutions and promoting the institution at the national level. As a suggestion, I believe that its number should be increased and two to three places should be considered instead of one in those states which are big in size. Secondly, the importance of employment generation has also been underlined in this Bill that pharmacists should be recruited in generic shops or other shops. At the same time, I want to say that the labels written on the medicine should be in the mother tongue which can be understood by the common people and it should also reflect the price and the disease for which it is meant. I support this Bill.

PROF. MANOJ KUMAR JHA: I stand to speak in favour of this bill. First of all, you should be more kind to a state like Bihar. There is an institute in Hajipur, but Saharsa, Purnia, Samastipur - the entire area of Mithilanchal is excluded. The second thing is that when 'eminence' comes, it gets 'national' with it and in this, the issue of social justice becomes the first casualty. We have to remember that making it national should not be such a heavenly concept, where the people of the land are deprived of their constitutional rights. You have tried to streamline the Board of Governors. Emphasis should be on its representative nature, because in democratic India, if any institution

does not represents its reality, then that institution cannot be called democratic. There is information coming in about different institutions that their condition is not the same, so I think it will be better if there is a symmetry between them. Two members of the Lok Sabha and one member of the Rajya Sabha will probably be in the Council. I request that the member should be of medical or pharma background.

SHRI ABDUL WAHAB: I am supporting the Bill. India is a country where 23 per cent of the population can't afford healthcare and 7 per cent fall below-poverty-line due to the indebtedness caused by health expenditure. It is high time that we increase our investments in the medical and health research. All the six NIPER institutions that are being promoted to institutions of national eminence were established under the governance of Dr. Manmohan Singh. Apart from upgrading the existing institutes, the current Government has done very little to establish institutes of global standards like the IITs, AIIMS, and IISERs. There is a need for a National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research in Kerala. It is the need of the hour to have medical and pharmaceutical institutes in the State of Kerala that are of global standards.

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR GUPTA: I stand in favour of this bill. These seven institutes were formed in 2007. Fourteen years have passed, but till date only one campus has been completed, rest of the campuses are yet to be completed, whom we are giving the status of National Eminence. I think this Council is being constituted against the basic concept of the new education policy given by the government. The President of AICTE is also being made a member within its constitution, whereas till now, there has been some dispute between these councils and AICTE. The concept that there should be equality of education, there should be equal education, this concept gets stuck many times due to councils. If we take the example of Council of Architecture, in order to have uniformity in technical education within the country, through JEE (Triple E) examinations were held in all the centres of colleges across the country and admission was given to them. Over the years, CEOs have made 'NATA' mandatory. If you want to take admission in Architecture,

then all the colleges will have to go through 'NATA', all the students will have to give the exam of 'NATA'. Now, neither it is advertised properly nor children are able to take admission because they are not able to take the exam. This is a pharma bill and we are giving national importance to pharmaceutical institutions. The government should ensure that the price of medicines is kept at a reasonable profit, so that the common people of the country do not get buried under the burden of costly treatment. They can get the right treatment and go to the hospital. I request that you must at least decide the qualification of those who are to become the president, vice-president, board members of these institutions of national importance, whether they are MPs or ministers or people coming from any other institution, so that these institutions continue to become institutions of national importance.

DR. L. HANUMANTHAIAH: The purpose of this Bill is to declare six institutions of pharmaceutical education and research to be institutions of national importance. Pharmaceutical is one of the very important areas in a country like ours with population of 135 crore people. Over-centralisation of power and lack of autonomy is seen in the proposed Bill. The proposed Council is empowered with excessive powers with regard to financial, administrative and managerial matters of these institutes. As the Council is mostly composed of Central Government bureaucrats, this potentially compromises on the Institutes' autonomy. The parent Act required, at least, one public person or a social worker from the Scheduled Caste or the Scheduled Tribe in the Board of Governors. this Bill has removed this requirement. I request the hon. Minister to please include one SC/ST member who is qualified. This Bill makes the provision of meeting once in a year which will hamper the working of the Council. So, I request that a provision should be made so that the Council shall meet, at least, twice a year. The CAG Report, 2020 says that the constitution of Boards of Governors for the six new Institutes was initiated in July 2015. It is very sad to note that six Boards were constituted only in the year 2019. We would like to know the reason why the Boards have not been constituted. Due to this delay, the autonomy of the institute is severely hampered. The second point is that despite being in operation for more than ten years, six new institutes of national importance have

been functioning from the rented premises. Availability of quality infrastructure facilities for the students and the faculty is totally absent. The Government must take up building the infrastructure, permanent campus on a priority basis. Out of these institutes, many institutes, are functioning with contract teachers. I request the Government to take up appointment of teachers not only for the institutes of national importance but also for other universities and institutes on a priority basis. Whenever the Central Government announces any institutions of national importance, there should not be any budgetary constraints. The Standing Committee on Chemical and Fertilizers, in 2019, recommended for a budgetary allocation of Rs.450 crores, which should be sanctioned for these institutes so that they can have their research activities in full swing. The institutes of national importance should not be just like other universities. You should provide them full staff and sufficient money for research purposes etc.

SHRI MAHESH PODDAR: I rise to support the Bill. In 1998 'NIPER' Mohali was established as an Institute of National Importance and there were 6 more institutes about whom there were doubts as to whether they are included or not, what will be their form, what will be their structure. But through this bill today, it has become clear where we stand, where we have to go and what is our goal. The Indian pharma industry has been a global leader in generic drugs and the domestic market is expected to grow three times in the next decade. We have been importing pharma products, but the day is not far when we will also become the biggest exporter. When we talk about the medical field, both education and research are essential. Since research has played a huge role where we have reached in the field of medicine. Under the 'Ayushman Bharat Yojana', people are able to get proper treatment and their life is getting better. Due to paucity of money, people were not able to get treatment, who are able to get treatment today. When national level institutions are formed, they will give us well trained manpower. AIIMS is indeed a beacon of the health sector of the country. Private people in this country also take great interest in healthcare, who also do this for charitable causes. Such institutions established and dedicated by religious groups and

charitable trusts should also be encouraged, a national policy should also be made about them, so that private people can also join it and the country can get more resources. The government should ensure that such rights of researchers are protected, so that they are also encouraged to do research. This will help in ensuring production of active pharmaceutical ingredients. All the sources of knowledge should not stay in separate departments, but come together to form a National Knowledge Bank, which benefits the whole country. The Bill will help in expediting the setting up of more NIPERs in the country and dedicate more academic seats to prospective students and researchers.

DR. FAUZIA KHAN: There are huge disparities in terms of infrastructure, courses, campus, and academic and research output. Certain standards that must be set in order that NIPER can qualify as an Institute of National Importance. At the international level, our ranking is very low. We need to meet global standards. Research is something the culture of which needs to be built in this nation. We should also come up with something against plagiarism. The goal valuation of the entire pharmaceutical industry in India is estimated to be over 130 billion dollars by 2030. This cannot be achieved without innovation. So, innovation and research are key words. Expenditure on research has to improve, especially in these NIPERs. If NIPERs do research, they will be able to produce life-saving medicines. We have to make sure that our research improves. In the list of research institutions involved in vaccine development programme in India, not one NIPER has its contribution. I emphasize that expenditure on research is very important. If these national institutes are coming up one after another, they should stick to the standards.

SHRI RAMKUMAR VERMA: Everything is there in this country. Here there is talent as well as resources. If we have determination-power, commitment, then perhaps there will be no problem in that. To strengthen the institutions which are of All India level or at all India level, we should fulfill them for the public, for the country. They promoted every institution in that order, be it IITs, IIMs or AIIMS and other medical colleges within our medical field. Today

we have industries inside pharma sector, inside pharma there are people doing very good work. There is talent within the country. The resources within the country are limited, but when there is commitment, then even in those limited resources, we will promote the pharma industry more in the coming times.

SHRI KANAKAMEDALA RAVINDRA KUMAR: During the second lockdown period in this year, across the entire nation each and every citizen came across words like 'shortage of Remdesivir' and 'shortage of oxygen', etc. That was the serious situation which made us to resolve that essential medicines to meet any contingency should be produced indigenously. Investment in pharmaceutical sector in India is very meagre. The Government must undertake all endeavour to enhance the level of investment. We have such a pool of talent in the country that if sufficient investment is ensured, we can certainly excel in this sector. Certain standards for such parameters may be set to ensure that every NIPER centre meets the standard of national importance. The pharmaceutical industry is not cooperating with the generic medical stores. The generic medicines should be popularised internationally. I request to explore the possibility of establishing more institutions, one particularly in Amaravati, in the State of Andhra Pradesh.

SHRI SHWAIT MALIK: This Bill is to empower our health services. As this institution is doing very well in Mohali, on the same pattern today institutions of Ahmedabad, Hajipur, Hyderabad, Kolkata, Guwahati, Rae Bareilly are also being empowered, so that they too can be included in the list of national importance. Research will be pursued in these institutes and after that we will not import but export.

SHRI RAMJI: In this bill, the government has given the status of national importance to institutions located in Mohali, Ahmedabad, Guwahati, Hajipur, Hyderabad, Kolkata and Rae Bareilly. This is a good initiative in this sector. With this, India will accomplish new achievements in education and research. The number in the governing body has been reduced to 12. In this, the persons belonging to Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes

should get representation so that the students and employees belonging to Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes can get the right platform to express their views. I request that there is a need to work seriously in manufacturing of salts also. There should be a regulatory body to determine the prices of medicines in this sector, which would focus on the prices of medicines and on the quality of medicines.

SHRI JUGALSINGH MATHURJI LOKHANDVALA:

The Bill seeks to amalgamate medical institutions and pharmaceutical companies. We can give our suggestions on how we can improve and develop it. New institutes are also coming up in Tamil Nadu, Chhattisgarh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan and Karnataka states in which research will be done afresh. By doing research, new medicines will be manufactured and we will advance the pharmaceutical sector. During the covid pandemic despite the talk of importing the vaccine from abroad, the vaccine was made in India. This Bill has been brought with the objective of protecting oneself in the event of a pandemic like this. I support this Bill.

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P. C. MODY,
Secretary-General.

rssynop@sansad.nic.in

****Supplement covering rest of the proceedings is being issued separately.

**ERRATA OF THE SYNOPSIS OF DEBATE DATED
8th DECEMBER, 2021**

Page No.	Line No.	Correction
75	21 & 23	Read 'Crops' for 'Products'.
79	24	Read 'Millions of ' for 'Million'.
86	4	Read 'a woman' for 'w woman'.