

RAJYA SABHA

***SUPPLEMENT**

TO

SYNOPSIS OF DEBATE

(Proceedings other than Questions and Answers)

Wednesday, July 26, 2017/ Shravana 4, 1939 (Saka)

GOVERNMENT BILL

**The National Institutes of Technology, Science Education and
Research (Amendment) Bill, 2017 - *Contd.***

SHRI MAHESH PODDAR: This bill provides for two institutions and I support the same. There were five IISER earlier and two more are coming. There is no doubt that we are proud of our engineers. To ensure quality education we made institutions like NIT. It is our duty to keep our people with us and to prevent brain drain. There are 227 engineering colleges in Andhra Pradesh but Bihar is having only 8 such colleges. Tamilnadu and Maharashtra have colleges in good number. We are making centres of higher education. This is a good investment for future. Study has been started in the institution of Odisha. We would be proud of these seven institutions.

SHRI HARIVANSH: I support NITSER Act, 2017. Two important institutions, NIT and IISER are under this Act. I think budget provision must be enhanced. Although it is increased for NITs but allocation for IISER has been decreased. I urge to enhance the same. HRD in 2013 found that 45 per cent posts, in NITs were lying

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vacant. The number of these posts must be increased. Standing Committee had suggested the way with regard to admission process in IISER. This may be done. Bihar and Uttar Pradesh are deprived of these institutions. Such more institutions may be set up there. Without good teachers we can not put forward these things.

SHRI RITABRATA BANERJEE: I support this Bill on behalf of my Party. Both the institutions which have already started are functioning from temporary campuses, with no proper laboratories, no libraries and no high-quality IT or engineering tools for training. There is an acute shortage of infrastructure in terms of accommodation as well. I am sure that the hon. Minister would look into this matter. Aims of these institutions were to bring out brilliant professionals, to improve the quality of higher education and to ensure that poor and common people get an opportunity to have quality education in these centres of excellence in the country. These institutions were started with a long-term perspective. Even after 55 years of establishment of the IITs and ten years of the establishment of NITs, have we been able to achieve the goals. Employers are dissatisfied with the quality of our Engineering graduates. The average spending by the Government on engineering education per year is the lowest in India among the BRICS countries. I am sure the hon. Minister would tell us how he proposes to improve this situation. In global rankings, IITs are doing good but not NITs. Recently, the annual fee of IITs has been increased. I urge upon the Government that equitable access to quality education must be taken into consideration. I am confident that the Government will work upon for the well-being of people.

SHRI A.U. SINGH DEO: It is a very welcome step that the Indian Institute of Science Education and Research at Berhampur in the State of Odisha has been taken up by the Government. It has to be put forward correctly with adequate funding and proper staff. The dismal state of higher education in the country ensures that engineers simply do not have the adequate skills to be employed. The curriculum in the colleges are not designed for a specific industry. All the vacancies must be filled up, otherwise there will be no use of

opening the Institute. Government has focussed in the field of education in Barhampur. We are happy with that and want to thank the Government. Lastly, I would like to say that the KBK area in our district Bolangir is the poorest area in Hindustan. You should open a branch there also. I once again extend my thanks to the Minister that he gave an institute to Odisha.

SHRI RAJARAM: I am on my legs to speak on The National Institute of Technology, Science Education and Research (Amendment) Bill, 2017. At present, there are around 31 IITs, but, if we are to see their global rankings, they are not in a very good condition. Therefore, there is a need to pay attention to its quality of education. To meet this purpose, a committee of experts should be constituted. Furthermore, attention should be paid towards meeting the shortage of teachers also. Besides, there is a lack of research in NIT. That should also be overcome. I want that preference should also be given to SC/ST students in this work. The education loan provided to them should be interest free. Lastly, I would like to add that there is only one NIT at Allahabad in Uttar Pradesh. I would request the Minister that more similar arrangement should be made in Uttar Pradesh.

SHRIMATI VANDANA CHAVAN: I whole-heartedly support and welcome this Second Amendment Bill. India is proud of its achievements in the field of science and technology. Establishment of more science institutes of national importance is indeed a welcome step and the need of the day. Through many of these institutes, we are giving certificates and degrees, but are we really equipped enough to make them employable? An assessment needs to be done. Can the Government take initiative to move to Tier-II and Tier-III cities so that more and more youth get employment in this direction? I would like to know, what the Government would do in future to address the gender imbalance and encourage increased participation of women?

SHRI V. VIJAYASAI REDDY: On behalf of my Party, I rise to support this Bill. It is very good that Indian Institutes of Science Education and Research (IISER) situated in Tirupati and Berhamapur will be declared as Institutes of National Importance through this Amendment Bill. So far as Tirupati Institute is concerned land has been allotted for it and the total project cost for this particular project is estimated to be about Rs.1,000 crore. But if the budgetary allocation will remain so low then it will take long time for the Government of India to complete this project. I hope the passing of this Amendment Bill will enable setting up of statutory body of Governors for IISER, Tirupati. The enrolment ratio in engineering and in science is low, I hope the Government of India will take additional measures in this regard. In India, only 0.8 per cent of the GDP is being spent on research and development activities which is very low in comparison with China and Israel. I would like the hon. Minister to find out the reasons as to why the talent pool is migrating to other countries. Many engineers are not able to find jobs because of the low quality of education and the low quality of education is on account of non-availability of good faculty. Therefore, I urge upon the Minister to improve the faculty standards in the engineering colleges.

SHRI D. RAJA: This Bill adds two institutes, that is, Tirupati and Behrampur to the Second Schedule of the National Institutes of Technology, Science Education and Research Act as they are being declared as national institutes. But they must get adequate funding. Government must give adequate funding for higher education. We should have very efficient and strong faculty in all these institutions. Engineering graduates are unemployed and under-employed. They are even willing to do any job for Rs.4,000 or Rs.5,000 per month. The policy of reservation must be implemented in all the national institutes. The students belonging to SC, ST and OBC categories are not able to afford the extremely expensive education, so Government must look into this aspect also. As far as expenditure on education is concerned, the SC/ST/OBC students must be given some kind of treatment in order to meet the expenditure as education for these

sections has become very expensive now. Government will have to address these very critical issues. I hope that the Government will assure this House and make it very clear that the policy of reservation will be implemented effectively.

SHRI RIPUN BORA: I support this Bill. World- class education is not possible without a sound infrastructure. I request the Government to expand such institutes to other parts of the country also, more particularly, to the backward areas. I belong to Assam and request the Government to consider shifting Indian Institute of Science Education and Research to Assam for the benefit of entire North-Eastern region. All these institutes should be free from political interference. Concept of vegetarian and non-vegetarian hostel in a number of institutes should be done away with. The reservation policy for SCs/STs/OBCs should be implemented in these higher educational and world-class institutes so as to give people of these sections an opportunity to get world-class education.

SHRIMATI VIJILA SATHYANANTH: I strongly support the new inclusion of IISER in Tirupati and IISER at Berhampur in Odisha. I would also like to point out some concerns and wish that the Government will look into this. The Government says a lot for IITs but never utters something for NITs. The real picture is such that the top Indian journals put NITs as third-grade private institutions because they haven't even cared to know about these at all. A healthy platform needs to be created for NITs and IITs so as to compete with the world's best universities. Failure on the part of the Government in allotting land to NIT, Goa has resulted in non-utilisation of even 10 per cent out of the budgeted amount of Rs.1440 crores in the 12th five year plan. Unutilized funds should be added back to the central reserve. There should be common syllabus all over India so as to give an opportunity to the deprived sections of society. They should be allowed to appear for a common examination by which they will enter into world-class institutions of NITs and IITs.

SHRI MANISH GUPTA: I wish to make a few points here. Considering the hopes and aspirations of the youth, budgetary allocations and the allocation in respect of total number of seats in these institutes needs to be increased. Unfortunately, a fee hike in these institutes makes it quite impossible for certain sections of our society to gain admission. We have observed that over the years the fruits of research never devolve to the sectors for which the research is done. The internal administration and the state of higher technical education of research of such institutes needs to be looked into. I would suggest that the Government may kindly consider to put out an Annual Report or a white paper on the status of such institutes.

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR): It was a very important discussion. Shri Rajeev Gowda said that networking is very important. I would like to comment on 3-4 things which we are doing simultaneously. Conduction of courses by 600 professors from 58 countries increases the interaction between the faculty and students and gives good courses to them. We are emphasizing on having one humanity course in every branch in every IIT. Practical hands on training will help in reducing unemployability. We are addressing the faculty shortage issue by attracting the talented Indian students doing research abroad, tracking them from third year itself and bringing them back. We have reduced fees for the students having income below Rs. 2 lakh. So, we are progressing on the right track and all your suggestions are welcome.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MAHENDRA NATH PANDEY), replying to the debate, said: I am thankful to the Members participating in the debate. The proposal of School of Planning and Architect by Nagaland Government has been sent to The Finance Ministry and it is under consideration. We have launched so many schemes in harmony with the industries. Resources have also been added. Our Government is giving full importance to the scientists. New visions in education have been introduced. IISER imparting education to 6000 students has secured excellent ranking

among the Indian institutes as ranked by Nature Index which provides world-level ranking. 94 patents out of 580 have been recognized which is a high achievement. Prime Minister has always given emphasis on the institutes for higher education and initiative is being taken to set up 20 world-level institutes which is a great achievement of our Government. Initiative has also been taken to increase participation of girl students in the field of engineering. There are several good institutes for higher education in the states of Bihar and Uttar Pradesh also. Through you I would like to appeal to the House to get this bill passed here also unanimously.

The motion for consideration of the Bill was adopted.

Clauses etc., were adopted.

The Bill, was passed.

SPECIAL MENTIONS

1. Demand to give a Minimum Pension of Rs. 3000/- and Medical Facilities to the Retired Employees of Private and Other Sectors in the Country

SHRI ANANDA BHASKAR RAPOLU: The pension-less retired employees, belonging to private and other sectors, are in pathetic plight. The present Labour Minister assured in the other House in April, 2017, to give medical coverage to such pensioners. Their prayers for a minimum of Rs.3,000/- monthly pension must expeditiously attract the attention of the Government. I stand for the retired employees of private sector, without pension, and their families and call upon the Union Labour Minister to be generous and expeditious in this regard.

(Shri D. Raja and Shri V. Vijayasai Reddy associated.)

2. Demand to address the Financial Crisis being faced by the Tea Research Association of Tocklai Tea Research Institute, Jorhat, in Assam

SHRI RIPUN BORA: Tea Research Association, with its research headquarter at Tocklai Tea Research Institute, Jorhat, Assam, is the oldest tea research institute in the world which has helped in increasing Indian tea production. TRA, Tocklai, is in a severe financial crisis for the last two years, which has severely affected its research work. Many senior scientists have resigned which is affecting the morale of the scientists. If the committed funds from Tea Board are not given, the Research & Development operations will have to be suspended. Therefore, I want the hon. Commerce Minister to address this issue at the earliest.

(Shri Ananda Bhaskar Rapolu associated.)

3. Concern over the Assurances Given for Various Development Works in Jharkhand not being fulfilled by the Central Government

SHRI HARIVANSH: Continues announcement are being made but these are not being implemented which is diminishing the credibility of Government. Several promises like construction of elevated roads in Ranchi, connecting Jharkhand with waterways had been made during election but none of them has been fulfilled. Ranchi turns into a huge pond during rainy season despite spending a lot under central schemes. I would like to know the status of such promises including the status of declarations made regarding national highways.

4. Demand to withdraw the Decision to stop Supply of Subsidized Kerosene and Sugar under PDS to the State of Andhra Pradesh

SHRI V. VIJAYASAI REDDY: Government of Andhra Pradesh has stopped supplying kerosene and sugar to BPL families and AAY families and also decided that henceforth even rice will not be supplied through PDS and is saying that it cannot bear the transportation cost of food grains. This decision of the Government of

Andhra Pradesh really created panic among the poor, AAY families and PDS dealers. I request the hon. Prime Minister to intervene and ensure that all essential commodities are supplied through Public Distribution System.

5. Demand to take Suitable Measures for Proper Utilization of Funds under Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY).

SHRI MANISH GUPTA: The funds allocated under Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana has been drastically reduced. It shows the reality of improper utilization of this fund at the ground level. Under this project the Central Government allotted an average of Rs. 7,000 crores per year for the whole country and in Bengal, the budget for 'Irrigation and Waterways' is Rs. 2,140 crores for 2017-18. Moreover, the State has also initiated a scheme called "Jaltirtha" for addressing the problem related with irrigation but so far, a budget of approximately Rs. 500 crores only has been spent by the Government under 'Jaltirtha' with emphasis on surface water management in the State. Therefore, it is imperative that the Government completely utilizes the funds allocated under PMKSY to ensure the welfare of farmers across the nation.

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Secretary-General.

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**ERRATA TO THE SUPPLEMENT TO SYNOPSIS OF
DEBATE DATED 25th July, 2017**

Page No.	Line No.	Correction
112	5	Read "there" for "their".