

LOK SABHA

SYNOPSIS OF DEBATES
(Proceedings other than Questions & Answers)

Monday, December 6, 2021 / Agrahayana 15, 1943 (Saka)

SUBMISSION BY THE MEMBERS

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS; MINISTER OF COAL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI) *responding to the issue raised by the several hon. Members, said:* It's a very sensitive issue. I assure you that Hon. Home Minister will make a statement today in the House. Hon. Home Minister and the Government is aware about your feelings.

DIRECTION BY SPEAKER

HON. SPEAKER: The hon. Members should ask supplementary questions specifically related to the original question.

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

Re : Unfortunate deaths of civilians in Nagaland.

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF COOPERATION (SHRI AMIT SHAH): I rise to apprise this august House of some recent developments pertaining to *Nagaland* unfortunate deaths of civilians in Indian Army had received information about movement of militants near Tiru village in Tijit area of Mon district of Nagaland. On the basis of that, 21 commandos had laid an ambush in the suspected area on the evening of 4/12/2021. A vehicle, that approached the location of the ambush, was signalled to stop and an attempt was made to stop it. Instead of stopping, the vehicle tried to speed away from the spot, after which, on the apprehension that the suspected rebels were travelling in the vehicle, shots were fired at the vehicle,

killing six of the eight people in the vehicle. It was later found to be a case of mistaken identity. The two people who were injured were taken by the army to the nearest health centre for treatment. After receiving this news, the local villagers surrounded the army contingent, torched two vehicles and attacked them. As a result, one security force jawan died and several other jawans were injured. Security forces had to open fire in their own defence and to disperse the crowd, killing seven more civilians and injuring some others. The local administration and police have made efforts to normalize the situation. Right now the situation is tense but under control. Director General of Police, Nagaland and Commissioner, Nagaland visited the spot on 5/12/2021. An FIR regarding the incident has been registered at Tijit police station and keeping in view the gravity of the matter, the matter has been handed over to the State Crime Police Station for investigation. A Special Investigation Team (SIT) has been constituted in this regard, which has been directed to complete the investigation within a month. After the above incident, in the evening of 5/12/2021, an agitated mob of about 250 people ransacked the company operating base in Mon city. The mob set fire to the COB's house, following which the Assam Rifle contingent had to open fire to disperse the crowd. Due to this, another civilian died and another civilian was injured. Additional forces have been deployed in the affected area to prevent any further untoward incident. A press statement has been issued by Army's 3 Corps Headquarters, expressing deep sorrow over the incident of tragic death of innocent civilians by the Army. The cause of these unfortunate deaths is being investigated by the Army at the highest level and appropriate action will be taken as per law. On getting information about the incident, I immediately contacted the Governor and the Chief Minister of Nagaland. The Chief Secretary of Nagaland and the Director General of Police were also contacted by the Ministry of Home Affairs. The situation was monitored throughout the day yesterday. The Additional Secretary in-charge of Northeast was immediately sent to Kohima by the Ministry of Home Affairs, where he held a meeting with the Chief Secretary and other senior officers of the Nagaland State Government and senior officers of the paramilitary forces this morning. The situation has been reviewed in detail to ensure that normalcy is restored at the earliest. It has been decided that all agencies should ensure that no such unfortunate incident recurs in future while carrying out operations against insurgents. The government is closely monitoring the situation and necessary measures are also being taken to ensure peace and harmony in the region. State authorities have imposed prohibitory orders in the affected areas as a precaution. The Government of India deeply regrets this unfortunate incident in Nagaland and extends its deepest condolences to the families of the deceased.

**THE NARCOTIC DRUGS AND PSYCHOTROPIC SUBSTANCES
(AMENDMENT) BILL, 2021**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (DR. BHAGWAT KARAD) moved for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985.

SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN *opposing the motion for introduction of the Bill said:* My objection is purely on technical grounds. I am challenging the legislative competence of the Bill. This is a typical example of bad drafting of a law for which every day we are agitating in this House. But, unfortunately, the Government in office is totally not responsive or not sensitive to hear the objections. Lack of proper scrutiny will result in bad law which is harmful to the society. The Act was amended thrice, in the year 1988, 2001 and 2014. In 2014, the clause regarding the definition of illicit activities was changed. This is drafting error on the part of the Government. This Bill should be passed with proper scrutiny.

SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB: This Ordinance was promulgated on 30th September, 2021 to amend Section 27A of the Act. The amendments will come in to effect from 2014, which means, it will have a retrospective effect. I wondered that how can wisdom has dawned upon this Government after seven years to rectify a drafting error. I cannot accept the view that with this amendment we can make a criminal law amended retrospectively. I would tell this Government to redraft it and come back to this House for approval.

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH: I am also opposing it. I would like to request the Government to withdraw this Bill and redraft a new Bill.

DR. BHAGWAT KARAD: Some Hon. Members have raised a few questions but these questions will be answered during the discussion on the Bill. My sincere request to you is to allow me to introduce this Bill.

The Bill was introduced.

***MATTERS UNDER RULE 377**

- 1. SHRI MANOJ KOTAK** laid a statement regarding need to provide stoppage of all Konkan bound trains at Bhandup Railway Station in Maharashtra.

* Laid on the Table as directed by the Chair.

2. **SHRI SUBHASH CHANDRA BAHERIA** laid a statement regarding need to review the decision to hike GST on textiles to 12%.
3. **DR. DHAL SINGH BISEN** laid a statement regarding need to include agricultural activities in the list of works approved under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme.
4. **SHRIMATI RAMA DEVI** laid a statement regarding need to construct Sitamarhi to Sheohar railway line project in Bihar.
5. **SHRI SATYADEV PACHAURI** laid a statement regarding need to relax the norms for appointment on compassionate ground in group 'C' and 'D' posts in Central Government services.
6. **SHRI GOPAL SHETTY** laid a statement regarding increasing incidents of crime in Maharashtra particularly in Mumbai.
7. **SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SINGH** laid a statement regarding need to expedite conversion of NH-19 from four lane to six lane in Aurangabad Parliamentary Constituency, Bihar.
8. **SHRI RAMESH BIDHURI** laid a statement regarding drinking water and sewer problem in Delhi.
9. **SHRI DEVAJI PATEL** laid a statement regarding joining of Jherda-Sirohi and Rohit-Karda-Sanchore with Gati Shakti Plan.
10. **SHRI RODMAL NAGAR** laid a statement regarding need to develop a Logistics Park in Rajgarh Parliamentary Constituency, Madhya Pradesh.
11. **SHRI SUDARSHAN BHAGAT** laid a statement regarding need to set up a Bauxite based factory at Lohardaga or Gumla district in Jharkhand.
12. **SHRI MOHAN MANDAVI** laid a statement regarding condition of NH-30 in Chhattigarh.
13. **SHRI SUKHBIR SINGH JAUNAPURIA** laid a statement regarding need to conduct Army recruitment Test in Tonk Sawai Madhopur Parliamentary Constituency, Rajasthan.
14. **SHRI BHOLA SINGH** laid a statement regarding alleged violation of reservation policy in Aligarh Muslim University.
15. **SHRI BHAGIRATH CHOUDHARY** laid a statement regarding setting up of a 100-bedded super-speciality hospital in Kisangarh, Rajasthan.
16. **SHRI BIDYUT BARAN MAHATO** laid a statement regarding need to resume train services connecting Jamshedpur Parliamentary Constituency, Jharkhand discontinued due to Covid-19 Pandemic.
17. **SHRI T. N. PRATHAPAN** laid a statement regarding cost of RTPCR tests conducted at Airports.

18. **SHRI HIBI EDEN** laid a statement regarding conversion of Ernakulam Marshalling Yard into an integrated coaching terminal.
19. **SHRI SAPTAGIRI SANKAR ULAKA** laid a statement regarding compensation for lands under Bharatmala Pariyojana in Odisha.
20. **SHRI S. RAMALINGAM** laid a statement regarding proposal to increase the GST from 5% to 12% on handloom textiles.
21. **SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA VISWANATH** laid a statement regarding Andhra Pradesh Disha Bill.
22. **PROF. SOUGATA RAY** laid a statement regarding repeal of CAA and NRC.
23. **SHRI OM PAVAN RAJENIMBALKAR** laid a statement regarding need to put a ban on import of Soyabean.
24. **SHRI DULAL CHANDRA GOSWAMI** laid a statement regarding need to provide funds for Dr. Ambedkar Chair, Patna University, Bihar.
25. **SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB** laid a statement regarding relief measures for farmers affected by natural calamities.
26. **KUNWAR DANISH ALI** laid a statement regarding need to release remaining instalments of funds for implementation of schemes under Pradhan Mantri Jan Vikas Karyakram in Amroha Parliamentary Constituency, Uttar Pradesh.
27. **SHRI JAYADEV GALLA** laid a statement regarding review of Bank Locker Safety Rules.
28. **SHRI NABA KUMAR SARANIA** laid a statement regarding demand of new tribal states.

**THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF PHARMACEUTICAL EDUCATION AND
RESEARCH (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2021**

T HE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI MANSUKH MANDAVIYA) *moving the motion for the consideration of the Bill said:* National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research is an important institute conducting research in pharma sector. Earlier there was only one institute but today its number has increased to seven. This Bill has been introduced to make further contribution, to conduct research and to introduce other type of educational courses in pharma sector. The amendments to this Bill have been made with a view to bringing all NIPER institutes at par with other educational institutes of national importance like IITs. The House may consider it.

SHRI ABDUL KHALEQUE *initiating said:* The National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research plays an important role in the overall research and development of the pharmaceutical sector in the country. As an Institute of National Importance, it plays an important role in human resource development for the ever growing Indian pharmaceutical industry, which has been in the forefront of India's science base industries with wide ranging capabilities in this important field of drug manufacturing. More so, there is a greater need to pump in extra force in matters related to health and prepare ourselves for future, especially after seeing the present scenario of Covid-19. I hope this will bring clarity in the status of all the institutes. The proposed Bill makes way for any similar institute set up subsequently to be the institute of national importance automatically. Section 4 (3) of the principal Act and Clause 6 of the proposed Bill have brought a drastic change in the composition of the Board of Governors of the institutes. I would like to recommend that the Chairman of the Board of Governors should be a person who is highly qualified in pharmacology. There is a need to increase the number of field experts in the Council. Doing so would insure planned and coordinated development of pharmaceutical education and research and maintenance of standards across the institutes. But what is more important is that the Government, through the proposed amendment, is trying to make cosmetic changes in the functioning of the institutes. In a country like ours with a huge population and not so good health care facilities available to its citizens, there is a need for research and development in health related sector.

DR. RAJDEEP ROY: The Bill was presented earlier in the House and now has come in the present form following the suggestions made by the Parliamentary Standing Committee and incorporating those suggestions. The Bill also seeks to make amendments and grant status of 'Institutions of National Importance' to all those institutes. This new status will allow these institutes to exercise the greater autonomy by giving them the power to hold their own examinations. It is high time the Government works towards defining 'institute of national importance'. In view of Covid pandemic, we are more in need of technical manpower in pharmaceutical industries. As a result of meagre allocation earlier, the research sector of those institutes did not go as desired. Following 2014 upto 2021 the allocation was increased. As a result the Indian pharma industry stood up to the challenge during Covid times and we started supplying medicines all across the globe. We need to apply our mind now to bringing certain changes whereby there will be more transparency and there will be a sort of activity in those institutes whereby we can actually take those institutes from national level to international level. The composition of the Council increases the versatility of this committee because there will be technical expertise, there will be law-makers, there will be Ministers and there

will be representatives from all other institutes so that we get the best level of governance and policy formulation. This present Act will bring down the number of members in the Board to 12 who will be from different fields making the Board versatile. There is an urgent need to focus on capacity building. The fund utilization between 2007 and 2014 was Rs. 300 crore and subsequent to that, it has gone up to Rs. 1,300 crore. After 2017, 100 per cent funds have been utilized by the institutes. We are seeking to get an enhanced academia industry linkage. Indian pharmaceutical market has grown by almost 18 per cent in the last financial year, which is phenomenal during the COVID times. We are not just being the vaccine powerhouse of the world today, but we are also proud to say that we have supplied medicines like Remdesivir, hydroxychloroquine and Paracetamol etc. to the developed countries like United States and Maldives. By granting the institutes status of national importance, these institutions will gain administrative autonomy, functional autonomy to enhance efficiency, quality and accountability. India today is home to 12,000 pharmaceutical industries. If we can supply them knowledge and requisite infrastructure, they can do wonders.

DR. KALANIDHI VEERASWAMY: This Bill was initially introduced in 1998 when the Mohali Centre was started and it is a great thing that 20 years back they were able to start this institution. The number of Members in the Board of Governors has been reduced from 23 to 12. It is fortunate that in this Term we have more than 20 doctors, but I do not know if this is going to be happening in every Term. So, leaving something arbitrary like that and to say that somebody should have medical experience to be in this Board will lead to a lot of confusion in the future. I think that this issue has to be addressed and sorted out. There should be certain criteria/guideline prescribed mentioning about the amount or quality of research that needs to be done in these institutions as they are going to be institutions of national importance. I feel that we should be one of the top countries in the pharma industry because so much of research potential is available here. The amount of funding to these institutions should be enhanced to bring out quality education and research. This Bill also talks about new Centres to be started. I would be happy if three Centres are considered in Tamil Nadu.

PROF. SOUGATA RAY: The object of this Bill is to bring all the NIPERs under one Council, which is to be headed by the Minister himself. The idea is also to reduce the power of the local NIPERs and to reduce the number of Board of Governors from 23 to 12. And all these NIPERs are labelled as institutes of national importance. They say that NIPERs are doing some good work and good research but I want to know about one significant medicine or vaccine that has been developed by NIPER so far. Earlier, these NIPER were not taking B. Pharma courses but now NITI Aayog has advised them to

open B.Pharma courses in all the NIPERs. Apart from Mohali, none of the other six institutes have got permanent campuses. A full-fledged NIPER campus should be set up in Panihati in West Bengal. So far, these NIPERs are doing research on allopathic medicines. But what about research on natural products and ayurvedic medicines? The Ministry of AYUSH may present a separate Bill to promote and develop research on indigenous medical systems in NIPERs.

DR. SANJEEV KUMAR SINGARI: Covid crisis made it clear that pharmaceutical research is the need of the hour. I thank the medical fraternity who played a key role in helping the nation tide over the crisis. When we look at the status of pharmaceutical education and research in India, things are not encouraging. There are nearly 2800 pharmacy colleges in India which train about 2,70,000 students every year. We are supplying generic drugs to 200 countries. We are giving more drugs to the world, but earning less. This is because we are leaders in bulk drug production, whereas we are far behind in innovation of new drugs. In the past 35 years, India has given only 14 drugs to the world, whereas USA has given 300 new drugs in just five years. Our first NIPER is situated in Punjab which was declared an “Institute of National Importance” by the Principal Act of 1998. Likewise, the present Bill intends to classify six other NIPERs as “Institutes of National Importance”. Through this Bill, the Government wants to establish a Central Council to monitor the activities of NIPERs. The Bill intends to reduce the number of members of governing bodies from 23 to 12. We welcome all these amendments but we have a few suggestions to make. The Principal Act mandates at least one SC or ST person in the Board of Governors of seven NIPERs. This point is missing in the present amendment Bill. All recommendations of the Standing Committee should be followed when you pass the Bill. In our recent study tour of NIPERs, we observed that lab facilities should be upgraded. I would request the hon. Minister to respond on this point. Besides, this Bill proposes nothing with regard to gender equality. Out of 36 members, we have not reserved at least one seat for a woman. Moreover, we have nearly 10,000 pharma companies in India but only 50 of them have their own research facilities. So, the Government should utilize research facilities at NIPERs. I would also recommend to Minister to incentivize the scientists. A professor who invents at least two drugs per year, should be awarded suitably. At the same time, the Minister should incentivize the industry. The last point is with regard to funding of the NIPERs. We should realize that pharmacists are the backbone of medical care in India. We allot thousands of crores of rupees for crisis mitigation but we fail to invest a few hundred for research. So, let us fund more for pharmaceutical research. Similarly, the Government should allow NIPERs and such other institutions to innovate and bring economical diagnostic techniques to our people. Again, many poor Indians are suffering silently in drug trials. Many people are

dying, it is painful to say that most of these sufferers belong to BC, SC, ST and minority communities. So, let us make all the drug trials accountable. Similarly, we need to upgrade our obsolete curriculum at NIPERs. We are also not able to transfer technology from institutions to industry. Moreover, I hope that the proposed Council shall provide an interdepartmental coordination also. I would like to request the Government of India to expedite the establishment of NIPERs in all the states. I would humbly request the Government to sanction one NIPER to Andhra Pradesh.

SHRI SHRIRANG APPA BARNE: Through this amendment Bill, six National Institutes of Pharmaceutical Education and Research in the country will be declared as institutions of national importance. In this Bill, a provision has been made for the creation of a council in this regard. I would also like to ask about the provisions pertaining to providing jobs in the pharmaceutical sector of the country as per the education being imparted. I would also like to ask about the steps being taken by the government to promote antibiotic companies. Today there is a need to provide employment or education to the youth regarding the pharmaceutical sector. New technologies are also needed to be adopted in this sector. Along with this, there is also a need to focus on the Central Government companies.

DR. ALOK KUMAR SUMAN : The purpose of this Bill is to give the status of the Institute of National Importance to NIPER Institutes. Also, through this Bill, a provision has also been made to start new courses in these institutions. With the enactment of this Bill, education and research in the pharmaceutical sector will get a boost. It is my demand that the number of faculties should be increased in the Institutes of National Importance. I would also like to say that the number of courses should also be increased therein.

KUMARI CHANDRANI MURMU: In view of the growth and competitiveness of pharmaceutical, the proposal to amend the NIPER Bill was the need of the hour. This Bill seeks to declare the six NIPER institutes as well as any other similar institute shall be institutes of national importance. This is a very welcome step taken by the Government. I would like to request for setting up a NIPER institute in Odisha also. This Bill provides for the establishment of a Council to coordinate the activities amongst the institutes to ensure the development of pharmaceutical education and research and maintenance of standards. Also, given the huge population of the country, the combined annual intake capacity of the NIPER should be enhanced. Similarly, new institutes should be established throughout the country. Again construction of own campuses of all these NIPERs should be done in a time-bound manner. Another important step proposed in the Bill is to reduce the number of members in the Board of Governors for each institute

from 23 to 12. I agree that a small group will work with a dedicated focus. Moreover, the Government needs to focus on the generation of employment for the students after completion of their respective programmes. Similarly, the Government should facilitate the involvement of alumni with the institutions to help the institutions grow. Besides, the Government should give more emphasis upon research and development in the operation of Pharmaceutical industries.

KUNWAR DANISH ALI: Whatever amendments have been brought in this Bill, they have also been scrutinized by the Standing Committee. In this regard, I would suggest that infrastructural facilities should be made available in all the institutions. I also want to say that the laws regarding clinical trails should be made stricter. I would also like to say that more funds need to be provided by the government for research activities. I would also like to request the government to establish such an institution in my Lok Sabha constituency, Amroha. There is a lot of research going on in the country. Therefore, the government should help the scientists in getting the patents done.

SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SADANAND SULE: I would like to ask a few pointed questions to the Government about the goal of having a NIPER and really, why specialised efforts that are going to be made in the NIPER? I would also like to ask that whether there a possibility of the AYUSH Ministry helping States to promote the traditional medicines of their States? It would be better if every State have one research institute. That would be an opportunity to promote research because that is the recommendation given by the Standing Committee also. The Standing Committee has also said that we must increase the number of seats. The laboratories in these institutes need desperate upgradation. Whereas less allocation of funds have been made against the requirement. So, we need to make serious investments in our laboratories. I would like to ask two questions to the Government about the Hindustan Antibiotics Limited in Pune and also Bengal Chemicals and Pharmaceuticals Limited. Why Government is looking at selling it? Moreover, there was the commitment made by the Government for setting up four regional institutes of virology. I would like to ask that will this all get integrated in the research? I think, the research which the Government needs to do, is being completely ignored. What you really need to do is to improve the labs take, get all the feedback from the Standing Committee and get more scientists involved there. It has to be integrated in our Education Policy. I would also like to ask why Maharashtra is left out for not getting NIPER? Our state Government is committed to working with the Central Government in truly making a difference and betterment to people's life.

DR. MOHAMMAD JAWED: I am thankful to you for giving me this opportunity to speak on the National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research

(Amendment) Bill, 2021. In 1998, there was one institute in Mohali, which was functioning properly. Seeing the need for such an institute, in 2007 it was amended to enable the Central Government to establish similar institutions in the country, and thus six other institutes were sanctioned in which one was for Hajipur. There is a lack of campus buildings, staff and laboratories in these institutions. So, I would request the Hon. Minister to look into all this and try to rectify the shortfall. There are a few suggestions which I would like to put forward. I would request that Hajipur institute, apart from the fund already allocated, should be given more funds and the funds should be to the tune of, at least Rs. 500 crore to begin with. The sum allocated in the last Financial Year was a meagre amount of Rs. 30 crore per institute which is very insignificant considering the important functions they are expected to deliver. I would like to request the hon. Minister to include, at least, one person from the SC, ST community as well as, at least, one woman. Lastly, I would request the hon. Minister to introduce more institutes, and more disciplines and courses so that we can meet the need of the pharmaceutical market, earn a lot of revenue out of it, and also provide jobs to our youth. I would also request the hon. Minister to establish a new institute in Kishanganj which is one of the most deprived areas of India.

SHRI ANURAG SHARMA: The National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research (Amendment) Bill, 2021 is a very important Bill. Today, our pharma industry accounts for nearly 42 billion odd dollars, out of which exports account for about 22.4 billion dollars with a growth rate of 18 per cent. The industry has been doing fabulous growth for the last couple of years, and it would continue to do so. So, I would also like to point out that today having an undergraduate course is very important for the pharma industry. Much has been said about strengthening and also reducing the number of people in the Board of Governors. I think it is a very necessary step. Having 12 members in the Board of Governors is completely ideal. This move will make it a clean and an efficient working body. I would like to request what was also requested earlier through the Standing Committee Report that indigenous medicines need to be upgraded, especially in the Ayurveda industry. Having higher research in Ayurveda would give a fillip to the indigenous system of medicine. The last bit which I would like to make is about the intake. Today, the industry is actually starved of trained manpower. If our intake goes up and the number of NIPERs is increased, we would be doing a much better job and India would actually be the pharmacy of the world. With these words, I would like to say that this Bill should be passed by complete consensus in this House.

***SHRI S. VENKATESAN:**

SHRI E. T. MOHAMMED BASHEER: This legislation, of course, is brought with a good intention. Upgrading these institutions to that of national standard and status would open up a new horizon for these institutions. The first good thing is to make these institutions, the institutions of national importance. The Bill also suggests establishment of a Council which can coordinate with all these institutions and it is also a welcome step. It is quite unfortunate that Kerala has been ignored in this move. Hence, I would humbly suggest that due consideration should be given to Kerala when you are upgrading these kinds of institutions to that of national standard. We all proudly say that India is known as pharmacy of the world. In order to make this claim a reality, we have to go much ahead and lot of work should be done. This piece of legislation perhaps may be a considerable step in that direction. We all know that prevention of a disease is the most important thing. Similarly, forecasting the variant of pandemic is also important. One after the other, new variants of COVID-19 are coming the latest one being the Omicron. Being prepared to face a pandemic is an essential thing for a country. I hope that the Government will take further steps in this regard also. Research and innovation is the need of the hour. For that, linkage with industry and educational institutions, and collaboration with international institutions should also be an integrated part of this move. As I told, around the world, a lot of research is going on. In this regard, curriculum revision also becomes a very important part of the education system. The pharmacists are an integrated part of the healthcare team in our country. Hence, we should take a holistic approach in this matter. As far as pharma sector is concerned, the future is very bright. There are a lot of employment opportunities throughout the world. I feel that Government is addressing all these problems.

SHRI M. SELVARAJ: The Bill provides autonomy related to curriculum and assessment of the course structure to meet the demands of the market conditions. The majority of the Council's members are either Government officials, bureaucrats or members nominated by the President of India. This potentially compromises the institution's autonomy. All six Boards were constituted in March, 2019 but the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers delayed constitution of Board of Governors for all six Boards and this led to constraints in each institute such as infrastructure, faculty staff, etc. NIPER, Madurai was initially approved in 2011. However, no progress has been made and this project remained shelved for some reasons for eight years. The Bill proposes that three Members of Parliament be included in the proposed Council. But it is silent on any

* See the supplement.

requirements for such MPs to have relevant medical experience. It should also include SC/ST Members and one woman Member in the Board.

SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN: I am on my legs to support this Bill in providing 'Institute of national importance status' to six more institutes. I support the Bill subject to one condition. My first request to the hon. Minister is that the Government College of Pharmacy in Thiruvananthapuram also be declared as an institute of national importance. I fully believe that this Bill will serve the purpose of coordination among all the seven institutes. The Parliamentary Standing Committee has submitted a report and I would like to quote two very important suggestions made by the Standing Committee. The first one is about standardization of NIPERs. The second recommendation is that additional courses have to be started. At this juncture I would like to speak a few words about generic medicines also. I fully agree and appreciate that this Government has also pursued it in a vigorous manner and Jan Aushadhi medical stores have also been established. In my constituency also, there are series of Jan Aushadhi medical stores. Let these seven institutes of national importance give focus to provide innovative medicines at an affordable and cheap rate so that the common masses will be benefitted by it.

SHRI HANUMAN BENIWAL: This Bill provides institutes of national importance status to six institutes. I support this Bill. There is a high need to resolve the issues of the pharma sector. India is rich in terms of manpower and talent but lags in innovation and infrastructure sector. Therefore, it is my suggestion that enough investment should be made for development of innovations, research initiatives and talent. Today, it's a matter of high concern that the prevalence of spurious drugs has become alarming in our society. The spurious drugs were not only sold during Corona period only but have also penetrated into our villages and have caused many deaths there. It is, therefore, requested that the spurious drugs syndicate should be controlled effectively because it is assuming ominous proportions. There is a need for necessary legislation to curb it. I would also like that such an institute should be opened in Rajasthan also. I would, therefore, request you to establish a National Institute Pharmaceutical Education and Research in Nagaur. There is an AIIMS in Jodhpur. There were reports of large number of deaths there during Corona times including the suicide by a doctor in Jodhpur AIIMS. Therefore, there is need for investigation into the appointments made therein and necessary measures should be taken to bring about improvement in Jodhpur AIIMS.

SUSHRI SUNITA DUGGAL: The National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research (NIPER) was first set up in Mohali in the year 1998. The time since when our hon. Prime Minister has taken charge, he has made all out efforts to

ensure that poor people get affordable medicines and hospital treatment. Our Government has opened more than 100 Jan Aushadhi Kendra in the country. The NIPERs should have short term certificate courses and diplomas courses also. Finally I would request you to set up a NIPER in my constituency, Sirsa, so that youths get employment there.

SHRIMATI PRATIMA MONDAL: I would like to bring to the forefront the fact that the Government of West Bengal has allotted ten acres of land at Kalyani, Nadia District, for NIPER Kolkata during January, 2018. NIPER, Kolkata is currently running on the leased land of Bengal Chemicals and Pharmaceuticals Limited. I would like to request the hon. Minister to kindly look into the matter regarding revival strategy of BCPL instead of its disinvestment. Masters and PhD students of these institutions are provided with a fellowship, but the students pursuing integrated Masters and PhD programme are deprived of the same. I would request the hon. Minister to consider the matter in favour of those students. In the educational programme, the candidates belonging to SC and ST categories are exempted from paying the tuition fees, which is a welcome step. But I would like to request the Government to extend the same to the students belonging to economically weaker sections of the society. In 2012, five institutions were put forth to be established in Madurai, Jhalawar, New Raipur, Nagpur and Bengaluru which are still on paper.

DR. SHRIKANT EKNATH SHINDE: The objective of this Bill is to promote medical research, innovation and education. Our country has been a pioneer in the field of health since ancient times. Education and Health are the two fields in which maximum work has to be done in order to improve the future of our country. Therefore, this Bill is very much needed. Corona has exposed the drawbacks of our health sector. There is a need of large scale reforms in medical education and research. I would request the Government to establish one NIPER in Maharashtra. We are largely dependent on China for bulk drugs. So, to prevent any serious further consequences, the API should be largely manufactured in India.

SHRI P. RAVINDHRANATH: Pharma industry is one of the major contributors to our national economy employing nearly three million people. The global trust earned by the Indian healthcare sector has led to India being called the 'pharmacy of the world'. Now, the world is passing through an abnormal situation being affected by COVID and it is the responsibility of the Government to take innovative measures in the field of healthcare. There should be a focus on development of traditional herbal medicines. The Central Government had proposed to establish an Institute of Pharma Education, NIPER in Tamil Nadu, in 2019. However, this proposal is still pending with

the Government. I would like to request the hon. Health Minister to immediately take action in this regard.

SHRIMATI NAVNEET RAVI RANA: Our country is far behind in the field of health and education. The Government is establishing six new institutes in the country in which cities like Mumbai and Pune have been left out. A number of new institutes will come up after this Bill through which job opportunities will be created. The Government should provide assistance through single window platform. The old method of teaching in the pharmacy colleges should be upgraded. The Government should pay attention to creating more scientists in the country so that the people are benefited in the future. I support this Bill.

SHRI ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY: Drugs security is needed in our country. For this, more attention should be paid to API, KSM and active pharmaceutical ingredients. We import about 70 per cent of our bulk drugs requirement from China. We have to think carefully as to how we will tackle the situation in case China will try to harm us. Our country has the capacity but lacks adequate investment. I request the Government to protect the chemical and pharmaceutical industry in Bengal. India is the largest provider of generic drugs globally and provides over 50 per cent of global demand for various vaccines. India ranks third in terms of pharmaceutical production by volume and 14th by value. Despite being in operation for more than 10 years, the six new NIPERs have been functioning from rented premises. There is insufficient permanent staff and also poor student placement rate which is as low as 22 per cent.

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UTPAL KUMAR SINGH
Secretary General

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

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LOK SABHA

SUPPLEMENT TO SYNOPSIS OF DEBATES
(Proceedings other than Questions & Answers)

Monday, December 6, 2021 / Agrahayana 15, 1943 (Saka)

**THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF PHARMACEUTICAL EDUCATION AND
RESEARCH (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2021**

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***SHRI S. VENKATESAN:** It is a matter of great shock that ignoring the recommendation of the Parliamentary Standing Committee, this Bill does not have any provision to provide representation to the SC and ST persons in the Council. This Bill does not have any provision regarding the scholarships for minority students, research scholars belonging to lower strata of the society and others. These aspects prove that this Bill, in a way, fails to ensure social justice in the higher research institutions of the country. This Bill does not talk about Indian system of Medicine or Tamil system of Medicine or the Siddha system of Medicine which have a long tradition. The NIPER that was proposed to be set up in Madurai is kept in abeyance for the last 12 years even despite allotment of 100 acres of land for setting up NIPER in Madurai by the Tamil Nadu government eight years ago. Setting up NIPER in Madurai is very much essential for the development of pharmaceutical education in Tamil Nadu and for development of Indian systems of Medicine. There is not even a single national level institute in Madurai. I, therefore urge that NIPPER, as announced, should be set up soon in Madurai.

ADV. DEAN KURIAKOSE: While introducing this Bill in March, the Government excluded the representatives of SC and ST category from the Board of Governors. Then, the Government reintroduced it on 1st December as an amendment. The Government should, by default, ensure representation of that community in all future

** The business transacted before this in the House has already been included in the Synopsis (Main).

* Original in Tamil.

legislations. I would like to talk about the geographical disparity. A clause must be added to the Bill to avoid geographical disparity. My third point is about standardisation of these institutes. My fourth point is about transfer of members. I think that the transfers in these institutes may encourage mutual sharing and learning. My last point is about the additional courses. It should be made part of this Bill that the Department of Pharmaceuticals can direct that the similar courses be offered at all the NIPERs.

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI MANSUKH MANDAVIYA) *replying said* : The National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research Bill has been amended to accord the status of Institution of National Importance to all seven institutes. At present, these institutes only give Master and Phd. Degree but these amendments have been brought to provide under graduate degree, Academic linkage and to make them self-sustain. The Third Amendment is about National Council. National Council is not taking away rights of Board of Governors. The National Council will act as Advisory Body. The representation for SC/ST has not been taken away. The SC/ST candidates in the Governing Body are taken into the Council. As a whole, the amendments in the National Institute of Pharmaceuticals Education and Research Bill have been brought to constitute National Council, grant degrees, introduce undergraduate degrees, to accord the status of Institution of National Importance to all the Institutes and to reduce number of members in Governing Body. Jan Aushadhi Scheme had been launched in 2008. There were 103 stores in 2014 and less than 300 types of medicines were available in them. Today, there are 8500 Jan Aushadhi Stores in the country and more than 2400 types of medicines and more than 56 types of medical devices are available in these stores. About 10 to 15 lac people take medicine from these Jan Aushadhi Store everyday. The Jan Aushadhi Stores are run to make awareness about generic medicine. As a result, the share of generic medicine in the country has increased to 8 per cent from 2 per cent earlier. It is a fact that we don't want to depend on the world for API. That is why PLI One Scheme has been launched and Rupees 14,000 crore have been allocated for API and Viable Gap Funding has been made through PLI Scheme. For that Pharma Parks need to be set up because hazardous affluent emits in manufacturing API. It needs to be manufactured in cluster development and in Parks. The Government has decided to make four such Parks with an expenditure of Rs.1000 crore on each. When pandemic started and first lockdown was enforced, India provided its medicines to 150 countries at that time. As a result, during second wave, in India when we faced difficulties, USA extended help to us. India manufactures vaccine now. India's share in vaccine manufacturing in the world is 60 per cent. We manufactured vaccines and sell them to the world but we are lagging behind in research. Therefore, the

Government simplified rules, regulations and procedures and after 9 months of research, the Indian Scientists gave us the vaccines. Our scientists also manufactured DNA vaccine with the assistance of Government of India and we started manufacturing it also. India has never seen medicine as business. It has been the tradition and policy of India to extend help to the world. We extended help to other countries keeping in view our philosophy of “Vashudev Kutumbham” the whole world is a family. That is why, various countries of the world are asking for medicines from us. 29 Ambassadors of American and Caribbean Countries Group have made a demand for vaccine from us. It has been said that the Government have exported 6 crore vaccines. The Government never wanted to export it but the vaccine has shelf life and it expires within 6 months or 9 months. There is a boom here that it was Modi’s vaccine, don’t take it, it is BJP’s vaccine. As a result, vaccines were available with the companies of the country but we were not using it. Today, more than 20 crore doses are available in the country. The Government is not stopping any member to start vaccination drive in their constituencies. Whenever our industries and manufacturers supply vaccines in the world we feel proud of it. The Hon’ble Prime Minister has seen health as an important component of development. Keeping this in mind Ayushman Bharat Scheme was launched. One Ayushman Health and Wellness Center was setup between 5 to 6 villages. After that Ayushman Bharat Jan Arogya Yojana has been launched for 10 crore families and Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission has been launched. Rupees hundred crore were spent in each district by providing 64 thousand crore rupees under Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission to strengthen the health infrastructure in these districts. If any patient wants to go to private hospital then 20 thousand dispensaries have been identified for the poor people under Ayushman Bharat Yojana. We have given him facilities at par with the rich people. I have proposed four amendments in this Bill. I urge upon the House to pass it unanimously.

The Bill, as amended, was passed.

Utpal Kumar Singh
Secretary General

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