



Standing Committee Report Summary

The Institutes of Technology (Amendment) Bill, 2010

- The Standing Committee on Human Resource Development, chaired by Shri Oscar Fernandes, submitted its 228th Report on ‘The Institutes of Technology (Amendment) Bill, 2010’ on November 26, 2010.
- The Bill was introduced in the Lok Sabh on August 30, 2010. It seeks to amend the ‘Institutes of Technology Act, 1961’ to add eight new Indian Institutes of Technology (IIT) and to convert the Institute of Technology, Banaras Hindu University (IT - BHU) into an IIT. The Bill also assigns a duty to each institute to support states or union territories technologically in their zones and to address their technological problems.
- The Committee was of the view that the composition of the Board of Governors of IIT - BHU vis-à-vis other IITs needs to be reviewed. It recommended that the composition of the Board should be uniform for all IITs. It also proposed that instead of two, only one member should be nominated by the Executive Council of BHU to the Board.
- The Committee cautioned that mere declaration of these institutes as institutions of national importance may not be sufficient to transform them into premier educational centres. The Committee observed that of all the eight new IITs, so far only IIT, Hyderabad had been handed over land for setting up a permanent campus. The report also commented on the shortage of qualified faculty, both in the new institutes and existing IITs. The Committee concluded that the fulfilment of qualitative parameters of these new IITs does not seem to be feasible in the near future.

Observations and recommendations of the Committee:

While the Committee supported the Bill, it raised a few issues:

- The Committee pointed out that there is no mention of any zone with respect to the proposed IIT - BHU. Since the Board of Governors of the institute includes a state nominee, this omission would impact its composition. The omission would also impact the envisaged duty of IITs to support and collaborate with technical institutions located in the zone and advise the state government/ UT.
- The Committee took note of the reservations of the Ministry of Finance on obligations being cast upon the IITs to strive to meet the technological needs of the states in their zones. This would constrain the autonomy of these institutes and force the institutes to undertake activities for which they may not have adequate capacity. The Committee therefore recommended that these duties should not be mandatory.

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