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**PARLIAMENT OF INDIA**  
**RAJYA SABHA**

DEPARTMENT-RELATED PARLIAMENTARY STANDING COMMITTEE  
ON HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

**TWO HUNDRED FIFTY NINTH REPORT**

**The National Institutes of Technology, Science Education and  
Research (Amendment) Bill, 2013**

*(Presented to Hon'ble Chairman, Rajya Sabha on 27<sup>th</sup> November, 2013)*

*(Presented to Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha on 27<sup>th</sup> November, 2013)*

*(Presented to the Rajya Sabha on 9<sup>th</sup> November, 2013)*

*(Laid on the Table of Lok Sabha on 9<sup>th</sup> November, 2013)*



**Rajya Sabha Secretariat, New Delhi**  
**December 9, 2013/Pausha 18, 1935 (Saka)**

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\*Will be appended at the printing stage.

**DEPARTMENT-RELATED PARLIAMENTARY STANDING COMMITTEE ON**  
**HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT**  
*(Constituted w.e.f. 31<sup>st</sup> August, 2013)*

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3. Shri Avinash Rai Khanna
4. Shri Rama Chandra Khuntia
5. Dr. Bhalchandra Mungekar
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Smt. Vandana Garg, Additional Secretary  
Shri N.S. Walia, Director  
Shri Arun Sharma, Joint Director  
Smt. Himanshi Arya, Assistant Director  
Smt. Harshita Shankar, Assistant Director

## **ABBREVIATION**

1	MHRD	Ministry of Human Resource Development
2	IEST	Indian Institute of Engineering Science and Technology
3	BESU	Bengal Engineering and Science University
4	NITSER	National Institute of Technology, Science Education and Research
5	REC	Regional Engineering College

## P R E F A C E

I, the Chairman of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Human Resource Development, having been authorized by the Committee, present this Two Hundred and Fifty Ninth Report of the Committee on the National Institutes of Technology, Science Education and Research (Amendment) Bill, 2013\*

2. The National Institutes of Technology, Science Education and Research (Amendment) Bill, 2013 was introduced in the Lok Sabha on the 4<sup>th</sup> March, 2013. In pursuance of Rule 270 relating to the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committees, the Chairman, Rajya Sabha in consultation with Speaker, Lok Sabha referred \*\* the Bill to the Committee on HRD on 17<sup>th</sup> May, 2013 for examination and report.

3. The Committee, while drafting the Report, relied on the following:

- (i) Background Note on the Bill received from the Department of Higher Education;
- (ii) Note on the clauses of the Bill received from the Department of Higher Education;
- (iii) Presentation made and clarification given by the Secretary, Department of Higher Education; and
- (iv) Replies to questionnaire received from the Department of Higher Education.

4. The Committee considered the Bill in two sittings held on 1<sup>st</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> October, 2013.

5. The Committee considered the Draft Report on the Bill and adopted the same in its meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> October, 2013.

6. For facility of the reference, observations and recommendations of Committee have been printed in bold letters at end of Report.

NEW DELHI  
October 17, 2013  
Kartika 25, 1935 (Saka)

BIRENDER SINGH  
Chairman

*Department-related Parliamentary  
Standing Committee on Human Resource Development*

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\*Published in Gazette of India Extraordinary Part-II Section 2 dated the 4<sup>th</sup> March, 2013

\*\*Lok Sabha Secretariat Parliamentary Bulletin Part II No. 5307 dated the 17<sup>th</sup> May, 2013

## **REPORT**

### **I INTRODUCTION**

1.1 The National Institutes of Technology, Science Education and Research (Amendment) Bill, 2013 was introduced in the Lok Sabha on the 4<sup>th</sup> March, 2013 and referred to the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Human Resource Development on the 17<sup>th</sup> May, 2013 for examination and report.

1.2 The National Institutes of Technology, Science Education and Research Act, 2007 is proposed to be amended by the National Institutes of Technology, Science Education and Research (Amendment) Bill, 2013 in order to upgrade the Bengal Engineering and Science University, Shibpur, West Bengal to Indian Institute of Engineering, Science and Technology, Shibpur, West Bengal.

1.3 The Ministry of Human Resource Development submitted that it constituted Anandkrishnan Committee in 2005 to assess the potential of some selected institutions for their transformation to high level technological 'Institutes of National Importance'. This Committee in its report submitted to the Ministry in February, 2006 recommended five institutes to become Indian Institute of Engineering Science and Technology (IIST) through an Act of Parliament. Bengal Engineering and Science University, Shibpur (BESU) was one of the five recommended institutes. The UPA Government through Union Cabinet meeting held on the 12<sup>th</sup> October, 2010 approved in-principle the proposal of taking over of Bengal Engineering and Science University, Shibpur and converting it to Indian Institute of Engineering Science and Technology, Shibpur as an 'Institution of National Importance' by amending the 'National Institutes of Technology, Science Education and Research Act, 2007 with an outlay of ₹592.20 crore over a period of five years. The Ministry vide their letter dated the 28<sup>th</sup> December, 2007 communicated to the Government of West Bengal that the Government of India had in-principle decided to upgrade BESU, Shibpur to IIST, Shibpur, West Bengal. The Government of West Bengal supported the proposal of Government contained in the Cabinet Note to repeal the West Bengal Act XIII of 2004 vide their letter dated the 2<sup>nd</sup> November, 2012. Subsequently, Cabinet Note was moved to seek the approval of the Cabinet on the 30<sup>th</sup> November, 2012 to introduce the Bill for incorporating BESU as an IIST by amending the National Institutes of Technology, Science Education and Research (NITSER) Act, 2007.

1.4 Dwelling upon the prestigious background of the University, the Secretary, Department of Higher Education in his presentation before the Committee submitted that the Bengal Engineering and Science University, established in the year 1856 as 'Civil Engineering College, Calcutta' was the second oldest engineering college of the country. First Degree Examination was held in 1864 by the College for the first time in Asia. Ph.D in Engineering was introduced way back in 1962. The college was converted to a Deemed University in 1992. Tracing the background of the proposed legislation, the Secretary informed the Committee that arising out of the recommendations of the Committee of Experts under the Chairmanship of Prof. S.K. Joshi on up-gradation of seven institutions to the level of IITs, a three-member Expert Committee headed by Prof. M. Anandkrishnan was appointed to undertake an in-depth evaluation of the identified institutions. The main objective of the Expert Committee was to assess the potential of these institutions to be transformed into high level technological institutes of national importance, comparable to the status of the IITs. The features of the conceptual model/formulated by the Expert Committee were that it was an institute of national importance formed by an Act of Parliament. All IESTs would together constitute a new system of institutions in technical education, developed by transforming promising existing technological institutions. Its governance system would be comparable to that of the IITs, including a Common Council for all IESTs. Its policies for admission of students and appointment of faculty and staff would be analogous to those of the IITs.

1.5 In the year 2004, BESU was converted into a State University with its present name. 10 BE courses, 24 M.E, 04 M.Sc and 01 MBA programmes are being offered by the University. The University has 205 regular faculty and 34 on contract basis. The University had 1900 students at the under-graduate level, 900 students at the post-graduate level and 250 students have registered for Ph.d. Besides an Academic and Residential Complex of 121 acres, the University has a rich centre library, an in-campus school and hospital and sports facilities including students' recreation centre. With the conversion of BESU into IEST, it was expected to give a big boost to research leading to enrolment of more students in Ph.d. Further, it was highlighted that the State University was reeling under fund constraints which was likely to be addressed once it was converted into an IEST.

1.6 The Committee was also apprised that the Ministry had protracted correspondence with the State Government which initially did not want to part away from this institution but eventually



gave its resolution allowing the repealing of the Act which gave BESU the status of a State University. Another aspect which the State Government of West Bengal had reservation was the admission process fixed by the State Government and students were selected through the JEE of the State Government which was now proposed to be changed to JEE Main All India as a State University was being converted to an all-India institution.

1.7 The Committee has been given to understand that the Department of Higher Education had sought views on the Bill from the concerned Ministries/Departments and also State Government. While the Department of Expenditure, Central Scientific and Industrial Research, Planning Commission, Department of Technical Education, Government of West Bengal and Department of Legal Affairs supported the proposal, no comments were received from the Ministry of Science and Technology and Prime Minister's Office. The Legislative Department, Ministry of Law and Justice, however, suggested that inclusion of word 'engineering' was apparently not needed in the existing title 'National Institutes of Technology, Science Education and Research'. The Department had clarified that it had no objection to changing the existing title as suggested by the Legislative Department.

**1.8 The Committee is happy to note that the issue of conversion of the Bengal Engineering and Science University to an Institution of National Importance has been proposed based on consultations with the university authorities and faculty associations. They have supported the proposed up-gradation of BESU, Shibpur to an Institution of National Importance. The Committee observes that it is for the first time that a State University is proposed to be converted into an Institution of National Importance.**

**1.9 The Committee welcomes the proposed amendment Bill for upgrading the Bengal Engineering and Science University into an Indian Institute of Engineering Science and Technology for integrating under-graduate, post-graduate education and research in Engineering and Science under the same umbrella and have international standards for producing quality manpower for the field of engineering and science education. This exercise will facilitate the offering of high degree of flexibility and generous inter-disciplinary options with scope for joint degree programmes amongst departments. It would also result in generating scientifically and technologically capable manpower to lead in India's strategic sectors like Space, Energy, Advanced material, Defence Research, ULSI,**

**Sensors, Water and Environment etc. Such a move is likely to have a positive impact on the functioning of the University with the support of the Ministry of HRD leading to better infrastructure and quality of education.**

**II.** The Committee makes recommendations/observations on the following provisions of the Bill:-

### **Clause 3**

2.1 Clause 3 relates to amendment to Section 3 pertaining to ‘Definitions’ of the Principal Act. Sub-clause (iii) states that in clauses (g), (k) and (m), for the words “the First Schedule and the Second Schedule” wherever they occur, the words “the First Schedule, the Second Schedule and the Third Schedule” shall be substituted.

2.2 The Committee notes that clause (m) gives the definition of the word ‘Society’. The Bengal Engineering and Science University, Shibpur is not sponsored by any Society but is a University established and incorporated by an Act of the State Legislature. The Committee would like to point out that other institutions mentioned in the First and the Second Schedule of the Principal Act may have been promoted by different Societies but BESU cannot be accommodated in any of the said Schedules and any reference to the Third Schedule in the definition of the word ‘Society’ would not be appropriate.

**2.3 The Committee, accordingly, recommends that the following definition of the word ‘University’ may be inserted after clause (n) of Section 3 of the Principal Act.**

*“University” means any University established and incorporated by or under any State or Central Act and mentioned in column (2) of the Third Schedule.*

**2.4 Clause 3(iii) may read as under:-**

*(iii) in clauses (g) and (k) for the words “the First Schedule and the Second Schedule” wherever they occur, the words “the First Schedule, the Second Schedule and the Third Schedule” shall be substituted.*

### **Clause 5**

2.5 The proposed amendment Bill seeks to insert new section 5A relating to ‘Effect of incorporation of Bengal Engineering and Science University, Shibpur’ to clause 5 of the principal Act with a view to incorporate the Bengal Engineering and Science University, Shibpur within the principal Act. Clause 5A (d) entails protection of the terms, conditions, rights and privileges as to

pensions, leave gratuity, provident fund of the employees (Director, officers and other employees), once BESU is upgraded to an IEST.

2.6 The Committee has been given to understand that the Legislative Department had sought clarification in respect of freezing the service benefits accrued to the employees of BESU to an amount equivalent to three months' remuneration under the proposed legislation in view of different permanent employees having different period and different service benefits be treated alike in the light of guarantee of equality and equal opportunity in matters of employment under Article 14 and Article 16 of the Constitution. In response to this, the Department clarified that freezing the service benefits accrued to employees of the BESU to an amount equivalent to three months' remuneration under the proposed legislation were in consonance with the provisions contained under Section 5 of the NIT Act, 2007 as well as under Section 30 of the first Statutes of NITs. It was also pointed out that the clause on freezing the service benefit accruing to the employees of NIT to an amount equivalent to 3 months' remuneration did not get challenged and no representation in this regard were received, as the transition was widely accepted.

**2.7 The Committee would like to mention that transition of RECs and Indian Institutes of Science Education and Research and transition of a State University like BESU into an Institution of National Importance are entirely two different issues, keeping in view their very diverse structural set-up. The Committee is, therefore, of the firm view that, while incorporating the Bengal Engineering and Science University under the NITSER Act, 2007, utmost care will have to be taken to safeguard the interests of the employees, officers and faculty of the University. Even though it has been mentioned in the proviso of Section 5A (d) that the tenure, remuneration, terms and conditions of service of such persons shall not be altered to their disadvantage without the previous approval of the Central Government, the Committee feels that the transitional phase of upgradation of BESU into an IEST should not in any way adversely affect all those involved in the running of BESU.**

2.8 The Committee has been given to understand that tenure, remuneration, terms and conditions of service of employees would remain same until employment is terminated or until such tenure, remuneration, terms and conditions are altered by the Statutes or Ordinances. Comparing the proposed amendment Bill to the parent NIT Act, 2007, the Committee finds that

the proviso to Clause 5(d) of the parent Act does not find mention in the present Bill. Proviso to clause 5 (d) of the principal Act reads as below:-

*'Provided that if the alteration so made is not acceptable to such employee, his employment may be terminated by the Institute in accordance with the terms of contract with the employee or, if no provision is made therein in this behalf, on payment to him by the Institute, of compensation equivalent to three month's remuneration in the case of permanent employee and one month's remuneration in the case of the other employee'.*

**Apparently, the above provision in the parent Act protects the interests of employees in accordance with the terms of employment/contract made. The Committee is, therefore, of the view that this proviso should be incorporated in a suitable manner in the proposed Section 5A.**

### **Clauses 7 and 8**

2.9 Clauses 7 and 8 of the proposed Bill deal with the amendment of Section 30 and omission of Section 30 A. Section 30 (i) in the NITSER Act, 2007 dealt with the establishment of a central body to be called the Council for all Institutes specified in column (3) of the First Schedule. Section 30A dealt with the establishment of a central body to be called the Council for all Institutes specified in column (3) of the Second schedule.

2.10 The Committee notes that the group of institutions under the first and second Schedule to the NITSER Act, 2007 are 30 NITs and 5 IISERs respectively. NITs are primarily engineering and technology institutions with a different academic curricula and domain expertise whereas IISERs have five year integrated post-graduate sciences curriculum with focus on research in basic sciences. Hence, the issues to be deliberated at the Council would be quite diverse for each group of institutions placed in separate schedules of the Act. It was apprehended that having a single Council would defeat the purpose of the Council.

2.11 On a specific query of the Committee regarding having a single Council to handle the affairs of 30 NITs and 5 IISERs, the Department submitted that a single Council would become unwieldy due to sheer high number of members since the total number of institutes would now be more than 36. It was, therefore, suggested that separate Councils for each set of institutions as per each schedule in the Act could only serve the purpose of the Council system.

**2.12 The Committee is in full agreement with the justification given by the Department of Higher Education. The Committee is of the view that the three sets of institutions i.e NITs, IISERs and IESTs are three different types of institutions having different curricula, domain expertise and focus. Having a single central body for all the three is likely to be unwieldy and could lead to compromising on its various functions due to the heavy work load. It would be difficult for a single Council to regulate as many as 36 institutions and the number of institutions is likely to increase in the near future. In the interest of the different sets of institutions which are the epitome of quality education in sciences, engineering and technology, the Committee feels that having a separate Council for each set of institutions would be more suitable and feasible for efficient administration and overall supervision of these institutions. The Committee, therefore, recommends to the Department to review Clauses 7 and 8 and bring out amendments to have separate Councils for NITs, IISERs and IESTs.**

### **III. IMPORTANT ISSUES/CONCERNS**

During the deliberations of the Committee, certain very crucial areas of concern although not directly related with the Bill, were raised which the Committee thinks need to be emphasized upon.

#### **ISSUE OF RESERVATION FOR STUDENTS OF WEST BENGAL IN IEST, SHIBPUR**

3.1 The most important issue which was raised during the deliberations of the Committee was the reservation of seats for the students of West Bengal in the upgraded IEST, Shibpur. Many of the members of the Committee pointed out that the Bengal Engineering and Science University Shibpur, being a State University, represented the ethos of the State of West Bengal. Keeping in sync with this, they suggested that fifty per cent of the seats should be reserved for the students of the State. This was considered important for protecting the interests of students residing in the State of West Bengal. Reserving the seats for the students of that State in the IEST, Shibpur would form the crux of operative federalism. It was also pointed out that since a State University was being upgraded into an IEST, it should be considered as a special case with the State being the main stakeholder and playing a very crucial role in its functioning so far. Nobody could deny the fact that rights of majority of students of the State would be curtailed and adversely affected in case reservation of seats not being made for them under the new set-up.

3.2 The Department of Higher Education clarified that there would be no provision for having fifty per cent reservations in an IEST. According to them, IEST would be one of the top institutions of the country leading into strategic sectors like space, energy, defence, new materials science etc. Therefore, it was considered appropriate to have an admission process on pan-India basis on real merit to achieve the objective of setting up of IESTs. The Committee would, however, like to point out that the fact that in the present case, a State University was proposed to be converted into an Institution of National Importance could not be ignored. There was already a precedent under the same Act by having the provision for reserving fifty per cent seats for local students in NITs. Regional Engineering Colleges were converted into National Institutes of Technology with structural changes in governance but full central funding. The interests of local students in erstwhile RECs were properly addressed by continuing the existing admission policy.

3.3 Keeping in view the fact that a State University was being converted into an institution of national importance, the Committee sought the views of the State Government of West Bengal on the Bill. While conveying their approval, the State Government drew the attention of the Committee to Ministry's letter No. 11-5/2006-TS dated 27<sup>th</sup> /28<sup>th</sup> December, 2007 informing the State Government that admission to the Institute would be through the All India Engineering Entrance Examination (AIEEE) and the admission policy would be similar to that of the NITs, i.e. "50% of the students to be admitted from the State of West Bengal and the remaining 50% to be admitted from outside the State". In its response to the Committee, the State Government reiterated its preference to the above-quoted position with regard to the policy of admission in the proposed IEST.

**3.4 The Committee fails to understand the reasons for the Central Government withdrawing from its earlier categorical commitment on an issue having very far-reaching ramifications so far as the students of the State are concerned. The Committee strongly feels that like in the case of NITs, where special relaxation was given by having an MOU between State Governments and MHRD entailing reservation of seats for the local students, the same has to be extended to IEST, Shibpur also. It has all the more reason to do so as a very old and well-established engineering college turned into State University in the year 2004 catering to the educational needs of the students of West Bengal was being up-graded to an IEST. Such an up-gradation should not in any way turn out to be detrimental for the**

**interests of the student community of West Bengal. The Committee, therefore, recommends to the Department to address this area of concern so as to safeguard the interests of the students in the statutes as done in the case of NITs. The Committee would like to point out that the proposed legislation is being brought forward for converting another institution run by the State Government catering to the needs of State Students into an Institution of National Importance. The Committee is, therefore of the view that reservation for students of West Bengal to the extent possible may be retained in IEST, Shibpur. Similarly, the interest of students belonging to SC/ST/OBC may also be protected as per the Government of India norms.**

### **Issue of vacant positions of faculty and non-teaching staff**

3.5 The Committee has been informed that there were many vacant positions with respect to faculty as well as non-teaching staff in BESU at present. As many as 69 faculty positions were vacant and there were 150 vacant non-teaching staff positions. Further, there were 34 faculty and 40 non teaching staff working on contract basis. The reason for vacant positions was delay in framing of new regulations by the State Government. The Committee was, however, given to understand that the process of selection of faculty members was going on.

3.6 **The Committee is of the view that shortage of faculty was a very serious area of concern which needed to be addressed in the right spirit, particularly, when a State University is being upgraded into an institution of national importance. The Committee believes that there would be requirement for more posts, both faculty and non-faculty in view of the up-gradation of the university in the near future. The Committee would appreciate if preliminary exercise in this regard is initiated at the earliest.**

### **ISSUE OF TRANSITION OF UPGRADATION OF BESU INTO AN IEST**

3.7 The Committee has been given to understand that there had been by and large smooth transition of 20 NITs and 5 IISERs by way of their conversion from Institutes run as Societies under the Societies Registration Act to Institutions of National Importance under the erstwhile NIT Act, 2007. The bodies governing the Institutes and other authorities of the Institute continued to function until the fresh Governing Bodies were constituted as per the provisions of the Act.

However, there were problems of different positions in the Institutes for technical and other non-faculty positions in terms of nomenclature and service conditions.

**3.8 The Committee would like to point out that in the case of BESU, a State University was being upgraded to an IEST and it meant major transition from being a State entity into a national one. The Committee apprehends similar problems in the transition with respect to position, its nomenclature and benefits etc. Further, the Committee notes that since BESU is a State University, it had many authorities constituted under it like the Executive Council, Board of Studies, Court and other bodies of the University. The Committee feels that it would not be easy to transform the State University into an IEST. It, therefore, suggests that in order to have a smooth transition phase, regulations and statutes should be formulated under the new Act as soon as possible so as to leave no room for confusion and delay in the efficient functioning of an IEST.**

## **EXPERT COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS**

3.9 The Committee takes the opportunity to highlight the important recommendations of the Anandakrishnan Committee which are as follows:-

- The five IESTs should function as a consortium with an IEST Council which will be an Advisory Body for major common policy decisions.
- Each IEST shall have a Board of Governors chaired by an eminent academic/engineer/scientist/industrialist. The Board of Governors shall be the highest decision making authority of the Institute. The Visitor shall appoint the Chairman of the Board.
- Each IEST will establish two to three major R&D Centers of Excellence in frontier areas of science and technology based on expert assessments of the available talent, emerging demands and overall institutional growth pattern.
- While transforming their existing programmes, care be taken to rationalize them to eliminate proliferation of degree nomenclature for programmes of similar nature.
- The faculty strength should eventually be determined on the basis of a student-teacher ratio of about 8:1.
- Specific action-oriented strategies should be evolved by these Institutions to realize the goals of industry-institute interaction. Each IEST should articulate its goals in accordance with its strength and faculty expertise, design programmes and prepare an action plan to achieve them and sustain them.
- Curricula should be designed to respond to new trends of technology requirements by changing existing courses and introducing new ones in a timely and purposeful manner.



- The University on transformation as an IEST should offer 5-year integrated dual degrees B.Tech-M.Tech programmes and also 5-year integrated M.Sc programmes. This should be rationalized in a manner to offer greater flexibility for inter-disciplinary programmes with good scope for research output.

**3.10 The Committee would like to emphasize on the fact that the recommendations/suggestions of the Anandadrishnan Committee regarding the pattern of governance, academic system, infrastructure etc need to be taken into account in the right spirit once the Bengal Engineering and Science University, Shibpur is upgraded to IEST. The Committee is of the view that since BESU, Shibpur is the first University to be upgraded to an IEST, it would be setting an example for the other similar IESTs which would be established in the near future. It is imperative that the quality of education, research and infrastructure be upgraded and maintained so that the institutes of national importance justify their designated objective. In order to do so, the Committee is of the firm view that the recommendations/suggestions of the Anandakrishnan Committee be implemented at the earliest. The Committee also takes the opportunity to emphasize that with the up-gradation of Bengal Engineering and Science University, Shibpur as an Institution of National Importance it should be ensured that maximum placements are made available for the students passing out from this institution.**

4. The enacting formula and the title are adopted with consequential changes.

5. The Committee recommends that the Bill may be passed after incorporating the amendments/additions suggested by it.

6. The Committee would like the Ministry to submit a note with reasons on the recommendations/suggestions which could not be incorporated in the Bill.

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## OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS - AT A GLANCE

### I INTRODUCTION

The Committee is happy to note that the issue of conversion of the Bengal Engineering and Science University to an Institution of National Importance has been proposed based on consultations with the university authorities and faculty associations. They have supported the proposed up-gradation of BESU, Shibpur to an Institution of National Importance. The Committee observes that it is for the first time that a State University is proposed to be converted into an Institution of National Importance. (Para 1.8)

The Committee welcomes the proposed amendment Bill for upgrading the Bengal Engineering and Science University into an Indian Institute of Engineering Science and Technology for integrating under-graduate, post-graduate education and research in Engineering and Science under the same umbrella and have international standards for producing quality manpower for the field of engineering and science education. This exercise will facilitate the offering of high degree of flexibility and generous interdisciplinary options with scope for joint degree programmes amongst departments. It would also result in generating scientifically and technologically capable manpower to lead in India's strategic sectors like Space, Energy, Advanced material, Defence Research, ULSI, Sensors, Water and Environment etc. Such a move is likely to have a positive impact on the functioning of the University with the support of the Ministry of HRD leading to better infrastructure and quality of education. (Para 1.9)

II. The Committee makes recommendations/observations on the following provisions of the Bill:-

#### Clause 3

The Committee, accordingly, recommends that the following definition of the word 'University' may be inserted after clause (n) of Section 3 of the Principal Act.

*“University” means any University established and incorporated by or under any State or Central Act and mentioned in column (2) of the Third Schedule.* (Para 2.3)

**Clause 3(iii) may read as under:-**

*(iii) in clauses (g) and (k) for the words “the First Schedule and the Second Schedule” wherever they occur, the words “the First Schedule, the Second Schedule and the Third Schedule” shall be substituted.* (Para 2.4)

**Clause 5**

The Committee would like to mention that transition of RECs and Indian Institutes of Science Education and Research and transition of a State University like BESU into an Institution of National Importance are entirely two different issues, keeping in view their very diverse structural set-up. The Committee is, therefore, of the firm view that, while incorporating the Bengal Engineering and Science University under the NITSER Act, 2007, utmost care will have to be taken to safeguard the interests of the employees, officers and faculty of the University. Even though it has been mentioned in the proviso of Section 5A (d) that the tenure, remuneration, terms and conditions of service of such persons shall not be altered to their disadvantage without the previous approval of the Central Government, the Committee feels that the transitional phase of upgradation of BESU into an IEST should not in any way adversely affect all those involved in the running of BESU. (Para 2.7)

A provision in the NIT Act, 2007 protects the interests of employees in accordance with the terms of employment/contract made. The Committee is, therefore, of the view that this proviso should be incorporated in a suitable manner in the proposed Section 5A.

(Para 2.8)

**Clauses 7 and 8**

The Committee is in full agreement with the justification given by the Department of Higher Education. The Committee is of the view that the three sets of institutions i.e NITs, IISERs and IESTs are three different types of institutions having different curricula, domain expertise and focus. Having a single central body for all the three is likely to be unwieldy and could lead to compromising on its various functions due to the heavy work load. It would be difficult for a single Council to regulate as many as 36 institutions and the number of institutions is likely to increase in the near future. In the interest of the different

sets of institutions which are the epitome of quality education in sciences, engineering and technology, the Committee feels that having a separate Council for each set of institutions would be more suitable and feasible for efficient administration and overall supervision of these institutions. The Committee, therefore, recommends to the Department to review Clauses 7 and 8 and bring out amendments to have separate Councils for NITs, IISERs and IESTs. (Para 2.12)

#### **ISSUE OF RESERVATION FOR STUDENTS OF WEST BENGAL IN IEST, SHIBPUR**

The Committee fails to understand the reasons for the Central Government withdrawing from its earlier categorical commitment on an issue having very far-reaching ramifications so far as the students of the State are concerned. The Committee strongly feels that like in the case of NITs, where special relaxation was given by having an MOU between State Governments and MHRD entailing reservation of seats for the local students, the same has to be extended to IEST, Shibpur also. It has all the more reason to do so as a very old and well-established engineering college turned into State University in the year 2004 catering to the educational needs of the students of West Bengal was being up-graded to an IEST. Such an up-gradation should not in any way turn out to be detrimental for the interests of the student community of West Bengal. The Committee, therefore, recommends to the Department to address this area of concern so as to safeguard the interests of the students in the statutes as done in the case of NITs. The Committee would like to point out that the proposed legislation is being brought forward for converting another institution run by the State Government catering to the needs of State Students into an Institution of National Importance. The Committee is, therefore of the view that reservation for students of West Bengal to the extent possible may be retained in IEST, Shibpur. Similarly, the interest of students belonging to SC/ST/OBC may also be protected as per the Government of India norms. (Para 3.4)

#### **ISSUE OF VACANT POSITIONS OF FACULTY AND NON-TEACHING STAFF**

The Committee is of the view that shortage of faculty was a very serious area of concern which needed to be addressed in the right spirit, particularly, when a State University is being upgraded into an institution of national importance. The Committee

believes that there would be requirement for more posts, both faculty and non-faculty in view of the up-gradation of the university in the near future. The Committee would appreciate if preliminary exercise in this regard is initiated at the earliest. (Para 3.6)

#### **ISSUE OF TRANSITION OF UPGRADATION OF BESU INTO AN IEST**

The Committee would like to point out that in the case of BESU, a State University was being upgraded to an IEST and it meant major transition from being a State entity into a national one. The Committee apprehends similar problems in the transition with respect to position, its nomenclature and benefits etc. Further, the Committee notes that since BESU is a State University, it had many authorities constituted under it like the Executive Council, Board of Studies, Court and other bodies of the University. The Committee feels that it would not be easy to transform the State University into an IEST. It, therefore, suggests that in order to have a smooth transition phase, regulations and statutes should be formulated under the new Act as soon as possible so as to leave no room for confusion and delay in the efficient functioning of an IEST. (Para 3.8)

3.10 The Committee would like to emphasize on the fact that the recommendations/suggestions of the Anandadrishnan Committee regarding the pattern of governance, academic system, infrastructure etc need to be taken into account in the right spirit once the Bengal Engineering and Science University, Shibpur is upgraded to IEST. The Committee is of the view that since BESU, Shibpur is the first University to be upgraded to an IEST, it would be setting an example for the other similar IESTs which would be established in the near future. It is imperative that the quality of education, research and infrastructure be upgraded and maintained so that the institutes of national importance justify their designated objective. In order to do so, the Committee is of the firm view that the recommendations/suggestions of the Anandakrishnan Committee be implemented at the earliest. The Committee also takes the opportunity to emphasize that with the up-gradation of Bengal Engineering and Science University, Shibpur as an Institution of National Importance it should be ensured that maximum placements are made available for the students passing out from this institution. (Para 3.10)

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# MINUTES

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**II**  
**SECOND MEETING**

The Committee on Human Resource Development met at 11.00 a.m. on Tuesday, the 1<sup>st</sup> October, 2013 in Main Committee Room, Ground Floor, Parliament House Annexe, New Delhi.

**MEMBERS PRESENT**  
**RAJYA SABHA**

1. Shri Birender Singh - **Chairman**
2. Shri A.W. Rabi Bernard
3. Shri Avinash Rai Khanna
4. Dr. Bhalchandra Mungekar
5. Shri Derek O' Brien
6. Shri Baishnab Parida
7. Chaudhary Munavver Saleem
8. Shri Tarun Vijay

**LOK SABHA**

9. Shri P.K. Biju
10. Shri Jeetendra Singh Bundela
11. Shrimati Helen Davidson
12. Dr. Charles Dias
13. Shri Virender Kashyap
14. Shri Mahadeo Singh Khandela
15. Shri Prasanta Kumar Majumdar
16. Shri Raghuvir Singh Meena
17. Capt. Jai Narain Prasad Nishad
18. Shri M.K. Raghavan
19. Shri Balkrishna K. Shukla
20. Shri Bhoopendra Singh
21. Ms. Ramya Divya Spandana
22. Shri Manicka Tagore

**THE NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF TECHNOLOGY, SCIENCE EDUCATION AND RESEARCH (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2013**

**I DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION**

- (i) Shri Ashok Thakur, Secretary
- (ii) Ms. Amita Sharma, Additional Secretary
- (iii) Shri Alok Mishra, Director
- (iv) Shri Rajesh Singh, Director

## **II BENGAL ENGINEERING AND SCIENCE UNIVERSITY, SHIBPUR, WEST BENGAL**

- (i) Prof. Ajoy Kumar Ray, Vice Chancellor, ISET (BESU), Shibpur
- (ii) Dr. Indraneel Manna, Director, IIT, Kanpur
- (iii) Dr. Gautam Biswas, Director, CMERI-Durgapur
- (iv) Prof. Amitabh Ghosh, Professor, BESU
- (v) Dr. Baldev Raj, Former Director, NIT-Puducherry
- (vi) Prof. P.P Chattopadhyay, Dean, BESU
- (vii) Prof. Prabir Pal, In-Charge, BESU

## **III INDIAN INSTITUTES OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY**

- (i) Shri S.G. Deshmukh, Director, IIIT, Gwalior

### **SECRETARIAT**

Smt. Vandana Garg, Additional Secretary  
Shri N.S. Walia, Director  
Shri Arun Sharma, Joint Director  
Smt. Himanshi Arya, Assistant Director  
Smt. Harshita Shankar, Assistant Director

2. At the outset, the Chairman welcomed all the members to the meeting of the Committee convened to hear the views of the Secretary, Department of Higher Education on the National Institutes of Technology, Science Education and Research (Amendment) Bill, 2013 and Indian Institutes of Information Technology Bill, 2013.       \*\*\*                               \*\*\*

3. The Chairman also informed the members that the composition of the two Sub-Committees had been finalized and Shri Rama Chandra Khuntia would be the Convener of Sub-Committee-I and Shri Avinash Rai Khanna would be the Convener of Sub-Committee - II

4. Thereafter, the Committee heard the views of the Secretary and other officials of Department of Higher Education on the National Institutes of Technology, Science Education and Research (Amendment) Bill, 2013 and Indian Institutes of Information Technology Bill, 2013 followed by presentations on both the Bills. The members raised some queries on both the Bills which were replied to by the Secretary. The Committee decided to forward questionnaire on both the Bills to the Department of Higher Education for their written comments.

5. The Committee then adjourned at 2.10 p.m. to meet again at 3.00 p.m. on the 10<sup>th</sup> October, 2013.

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\*\*\*Relates to other matter



**IV  
FOURTH MEETING**

The Committee on Human Resource Development met at 11.00 a.m. on Thursday, the 17<sup>th</sup> October, 2013 in Committee Room 'A', Ground Floor, Parliament House Annexe, New Delhi.

**MEMBERS PRESENT  
RAJYA SABHA**

1. Shri Birender Singh - **Chairman**
2. Shri A.W. Rabi Bernard
3. Shri Avinash Rai Khanna
4. Shri Rama Chandra Khuntia
5. Dr. Bhalchandra Mungekar
6. Shri Baishnab Parida

**LOK SABHA**

7. Shri Suresh Angadi
8. Shri P.K. Biju
9. Shrimati Helen Davidson
10. Dr. Charles Dias
11. Shri Prasanta Kumar Majumdar
12. Shri Raghuvir Singh Meena
13. Capt. Jai Narain Prasad Nishad
14. Shri Manicka Tagore

**SECRETARIAT**

Smt. Vandana Garg, Additional Secretary

Shri Arun Sharma, Joint Director

Smt. Himanshi Arya, Assistant Director

Smt. Harshita Shankar, Assistant Director

2. At the outset, the Chairman welcomed all the members to the meeting of the Committee convened to consider and adopt the draft 259<sup>th</sup> Report on the National Institutes of Technology, Science Education and Research (Amendment) Bill, 2013.

3. The Committee considered the draft 259<sup>th</sup> Report on the National Institutes of Technology, Science Education and Research (Amendment) Bill, 2013 and adopted the same with some minor changes. The Committee decided to present the Report to the Hon'ble Chairman, Rajya Sabha as the Parliament was not in session and accordingly authorized the Chairman of the Committee to approach the Hon'ble Chairman, Rajya Sabha in this regard.

4.       \*\*\*                               \*\*\*                               \*\*\*                               \*\*\*

5.       \*\*\*                               \*\*\*                               \*\*\*                               \*\*\*

6. The Committee then adjourned at 12.25 p.m.

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\*\*\* Relates to other matter

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# ANNEXURES

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