

Title: Motion of consideration of the Post-graduate Institute of Medical Education and Research, Chandigarh (Amendment) Bill, 2001 (Bill passed.)

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C.P. THAKUR): I beg to move:

"That the Bill further to amend the Post-Graduate Institute of Medical Education and Research, Chandigarh Act, 1966, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."

This is a small Bill. It says that if any Member of the House is elevated on the Parliamentary side either as Deputy-Speaker or Speaker of the House or on the Government side either as a Deputy Minister or a Minister of State or a Cabinet Minister, he should cease to be a member of the Governing Body of the Institute. One Member was noticed as continuing to be a member of the Governing Body of the Institute even after he became a minister. So, to prevent such a situation this Bill has been brought before the House for its consideration.

I commend that this Bill be considered by this august House.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Motion moved:

"That the Bill further to amend the Post-Graduate Institute of Medical Education and Research, Chandigarh Act, 1966, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."

A number of Members who go on deputation continue to be there. They do not give up their membership. What about them?

श्री राजो सिंह (बेगूसराय) : मैडम, इसमें नोमिनी ले लेते तो अच्छा काम होता, अब आप मंत्री हो गये हैं।

डॉ.सी.पी.ठाकुर : इसमें आया है कि अगर कोई मिनिस्टर बन जाता है तो उन्हें वहां नहीं रहना चाहिए, उनके बदले दूसरा मैम्बर होगा।

सभापति महोदय : नोमिनी मैम्बर का ही होता है और कौन हो जायेगा।

श्री राजो सिंह : मैडम, क्षेत्र दूसरे का रहेगा।

प्रो. रासा सिंह रावत (अजमेर) : सभापति महोदय, मैं आपके माध्यम से सरकार से प्रार्थना करना चाहता था कि पिछले दिनों एस्टीमेट कमेटी के माध्यम से हमें चंडीगढ़ जाने का सुअवसर प्राप्त हुआ था। यह अमेंडमेंट बहुत अच्छा है, इसमें कोई नई बात नहीं है कि अगर किसी सदस्य की पदोन्नति हो जाए वह डिप्टी स्पीकर बन जाए, सदस्य न रहे तो उसे अपने आप इस्तीफा दे देना चाहिए। लेकिन मैं आपके माध्यम से स्वास्थ्य मंत्री जी का ध्यान आकर्षित करना चाहता हूँ कि वहां कई तरह की पुरानी मशीनें और यंत्र हैं। वहां बहुत भारी भीड़ रहती है। देश के उत्तरी राज्य कश्मीर, हिमाचल प्रदेश, पंजाब, हरियाणा और पश्चिमी उत्तर प्रदेश के बहुत से लोग हजारों की संख्या में वहां जाते हैं। वहां बहुत ज्यादा रश रहता है। वे कहते हैं कि हम किसी को मना नहीं कर सकते हैं, सभी को भर्ती करते हैं, क्योंकि वह अखिल भारतीय पी.जी.आई. संस्थान है। जैसा कि दिल्ली में एम्स है, उसमें भी उत्तर प्रदेश, बिहार और देश के विभिन्न राज्यों से लोग आते हैं, उन्हें यहां अच्छा उपचार प्राप्त होता है। यहां बड़े-बड़े डाक्टर्स और विशेषज्ञ हैं। इसी प्रकार से पी.जी.आई. की स्थापना इसी उद्देश्य को लेकर की गई थी, लेकिन वहां जो मशीनें एम.आर.आई., सी.टी.स्कैन आदि हैं वे अक्सर खराब रहती हैं, उन्हें ठीक होने में बड़ा टाइम लग जाता है। कभी टैक्नीशियन्स उपलब्ध नहीं हो पाते हैं। वहां पहले वर्क-प्लान बना था, वह वर्क-प्लान स्वास्थ्य मंत्रालय में आया हुआ है। इसी तरह से वहां थोड़ा विस्तार होना था, वहां कुछ बिल्डिंगें पुरानी हो गई हैं, वहां कुछ नये ब्लाक्स बनने थे। जिस तरह से दिल्ली के एम्स की तरफ हमारा पूरा ध्यान रहता है, चूंकि यह एक अखिल भारतीय आयुर्विज्ञान संस्थान है, ऐसे ही बड़े-बड़े एक्सपर्ट्स और डाक्टर्स की सुविधा यदि पी.जी.आई. के स्तर पर भी उपलब्ध हो सके तो मैं समझता हूँ कि जनता का अधिक कल्याण हो सकेगा। इन्हीं शब्दों के साथ मैं इस बिल का समर्थन करते हुए अपनी बात समाप्त करता हूँ।

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL (CHANDIGARH): Madam Chairperson, there can certainly be no objection to the provisions of this Bill. Perhaps there was even no need to bring about a provision like this. But experience has forced the hon. Minister to bring about this provision and it rightly deserves to be adopted.

Though the Post-Graduate Institute of Medical Education and Research, Chandigarh Act stipulates the presence of two Members of Lok Sabha and one Member of Rajya Sabha on the Governing Body of the Institute, it is very well understood that if such a Member becomes a Minister or occupies any other office enumerated in the Bill or if the Minister who is the Chairman of the Body ceases to be the Minister, obviously they ought to give up their membership of the Institute or to be the Governing Body.

But something happened somewhere in the past which has led the Government to rethink on this provision and bring about this amendment. Time could have been saved if this Bill was brought along with the Bill relating to the All-India Institute of Medical Sciences. But since this Bill is before the House today, I like the hon. Member from the other side would like to take advantage of this and refer to certain other provisions which need to be incorporated in the Bill.

Madam, we have two important Standing Committees. These are Statutory Committees. One is the Standing Finance Committee and the other is the Standing Estate Committee. These two Committees render a useful service and in fact, the two Institutes, which are institutes of national importance, are examples where the Government does not arrogate all the powers to itself but functions through the Institute Body and the Governing Body. I hope, if the Government were to really do that in various other organisations also, then that would be a very good experience in

working democracy and in ensuring that we have in place a participatory democracy. Here, people who have excelled in different fields like in the field of medical education, education or scientists or men of importance who have occupied important positions like that of the Vice-Chancellor of a University can be brought on this Body. It may apply to the institute body or the governing body. They can put their heads together to ensure that these two institutions really render a yeoman service.

Similarly, these members from the institute bodies who are co-opted as members of the Standing Finance Committee and Standing Estate Committee are called upon to work extensively, to take part in the day-to-day working relating to finance and estate of the Institute.

There is one committee which is missing and that is the Joint Consultative Machinery. Over the years, we have unfortunately seen that the cordial industrial relations which ought to prevail in such institutions for better service being rendered to the patients are missing. It is missing for the reason that often on the smallest thing, there arises a dispute between the employees and the management which really snowballs into something very major but could really be solved there itself, if there were a Joint Consultative Machinery which were to meet frequently to consider the demands raised by the employees and discuss the same. There ought to be members from the Institute and from the Office of the Director also. They could sit together and solve the problems.

When I say so, I would give you the example of Panjab University in Chandigarh itself where we got into place an institutionalised system like the Joint Consultative Machinery and we have seen a sea change in the relationship between the non-teaching employees and the University authorities. Similarly, if a provision like that were to be incorporated in the Act, which I know cannot be done right now, it would be good. But I would take this opportunity to request the hon. Minister to ponder over this point because he is aware of the situation that aggravates from time to time. Problem arises because of one demand or the other of the employees not being conceded to by the authorities leads to agitation. And that agitation leads to suspensions, dismissal of the employees and then a new issue arises. The main issues are forgotten and an agitation starts on the new issue or a non-issue altogether.

I am sure the hon. Minister would pay attention to this important aspect and see that something can be done.

Secondly, some time back, the Institute Body had set up something akin to the Joint Consultative Machinery that I am talking of. They had set up a high-powered committee to look into the demands and grievances of the non-faculty staff. This has not met as often as it should have. There are many demands pending for the last many years, perhaps even for a decade now, which are crying for immediate attention. I would not like to take the time of the House in detailing those but I would only very briefly refer to those demands with the request that the hon. Minister should kindly take note of those demands.

One is regarding the second backlog promotion scheme with effect from 1.1.93; the uniform city compensatory allowance; overtime allowance to shift duty engineering staff; immediate implementation of the cadre review report of the engineering staff – this is very important, which has been hanging fire for very long and which is a cause for concern amongst the employees - grant of hospital patient care allowance; and also the implementation of cadre review for various other categories of employees. These demands have often led to agitations as the hon. Minister knows, and if he were to act now, I am sure, all these matters would be a matter of the past and the institution could really surge and move forward to cater to the needs of the people from the entire region – right from Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana and Chandigarh, people come here. They do need immediate attention.

Similar is the position regarding the need to put in place the scheme called Assured Career Progression Scheme.

As I am conscious of time, I am only referring to the last point. There are a large number of Central Government employees in Chandigarh. Though Chandigarh qualifies for a Central Government Health Scheme dispensary, the same has not been put in position so far, despite the fact that the approach of the hon. Minister has been a very positive one. It is only because of the bureaucratic impediment or red-tapism that the same has not been put in place so far. I know that he is working on it and I am sure this would be put in place at the earliest. But till then, why should the PGIMER not cater to the needs of those people? The Central Government employees cannot go to the PGIMER for treatment. PGIMER is a Central body. When that is the case why should that happen?

Therefore, I would request the hon. Minister to kindly pass on immediate instructions to the effect that the Central Government employees, the retired ones or those in service, who are entitled to avail the CGHS services, should have this facility of treatment at PGIMER.

With these words, I support this Bill.

डॉ. सी.पी.ठाकुर : सभापति महोदया, रावत जी ने बहुत सी बातों को यहां उठाया है और कहा कि पी.जी.आई. में और सुधार होना चाहिए। मैं उन्हें बताना चाहता हूँ कि पिछले कुछ दिनों में बहुत सारी चीजें उसमें जोड़ी गई हैं। वहां एक बहुत बड़ा आउटडोर पेशेंट डिपार्टमेंट बनाया गया है। एडवांस पीडियाट्रिक सेंटर फेज-दो भी बनने वाला है। आई सेंटर, कार्डियक सेंटर, बोन मेरो ट्रांसप्लांट सेंटर आदि बन रहे हैं। इक्विपमेंट के नवीनीकरण के लिए भी फंड आबंटित किया गया है। पी.जी.आई. को केवल इस क्षेत्र के लिए ही नहीं, बल्कि हम उसे पूरे देश का एक सेंटर आफ एक्सीलेंस के रूप में रखना चाहते हैं। मैं निवेदन करना चाहता हूँ कि माननीय सदस्य ने जो सुझाव दिए हैं, उन पर हम ध्यान दे रहे हैं।

Shri Bansal has suggested some disputes of the PGIMER I will discuss the matter and I would try to do the needful. He has also suggested something for improvement.

Regarding making PGIMER a centre for CGHS, I am for opening very soon a centre for retired Government employees. Till then, I think that PGIMER will be asked to act as hospital for retired government employees of that area.

MR. CHAIRMAN :The question is:

"That the Bill further to amend the Post-Graduate Institute of Medical Education and Research, Chandigarh Act, 1966, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House will now take up clause-by-clause consideration of the Bill.

The question is:

"That Clause 2 stand part of the Bill"

The motion was adopted.

Clause 2 was added to the Bill

Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Long Title were added to the Bill

DR. C.P. THAKUR: I beg to move:

"That the Bill be passed."

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted.
