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Title : Need to review the decision to privatise Film and Television Institute, Pune, Maharashtra.

SHRI P.K. BIJU (ALATHUR): I would like to draw the attention of the house to the issue on privatization of Indian Film and Television Institute, Pune. My concerns and reservations are regarding the so called upgradation of FTII and the DPR furnished by Hewitt Associates. I must say that the report is "amateur" and is not based on scientific research. Hewitt Associates analyses for corporate companies. So analysis of FTII should have been done by someone who knows the art of filmmaking.

The second fundamental issue is the deviation of FTII towards public-private partnership (PPP). A number of expensive industry-oriented short-term courses have now been introduced to make the institute profit-generating. This is clear from Sub clause 1 of Clause 9.1.3., Hewitt report. It states that the courses should be remodelled on a self reliance mode. The report suggests the need of immense focus on managing media as business. It is obvious that the recommended public-private partnership (PPP) is an industry-oriented approach. The art school cannot be analysed the same way as a corporate set-up. The founding of FTII was intended to give free space for creative exploration of national talent

If FTII is modified as suggested by Hewitt Associates, only the affluent will be able to study here and initiative for tribal representation as proposed, and spirit of FTII cannot be maintained.

The so called "reconstruction" of FTII, done on the principles of a private company accompanied by a changed syllabus, will fundamentally alter the fabric of the institute and the plural cinema that FTII has encouraged and stood by over the years.

I urge upon the ministry to withdraw the ongoing privatization and commercialization process in the name of upgradation suggested by the Hewitt Associates. The Government should improve the existing infrastructure to accommodate the increasing number of students and avoid an increase in course fees to make film education available to students from modest backgrounds, proper revision and formulation of the syllabus and filling up vacant posts and finally upgradation in a transparent manner with the effective functioning of the Committee.