

Sixteenth Lok Sabha

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Title: Need to take steps to remove discrepancies in National Medical Commission Bill, 2017.

*SHRI C. MAHENDRAN (POLLACHI): Hon. Madam Speaker, The proposed legislation on National Medical Commission, 2017 has so many shortcomings attached to it. The proposed bill is trying to replace the National Medical Council with the National Medical Commission and ensures appointment of even non-medical members in the Commission. If the bill is passed in the present format, the representation from States in the National Medical Commission will see a drastic reduction. That's why I say this bill is particularly against the interests of States.

HON. SPEAKER: You speak on this issue when the Bill comes up for discussion.

SHRI C. MAHENDRAN: Madam Speaker, I wish to state that there would be unnecessary intervention of the Union into the powers of the State.

HON. SPEAKER: At the time of discussion on the Bill you can speak.

SHRI C. MAHENDRAN: Madam Speaker, Clause 49 of the Bill proposes that the practitioners of alternative medicines, such as Homoeopathy, Ayurveda and Unani, can be allowed to practise modern allopathic medicine after attending a short-term "bridge course". This may lead to quackery in the field of medicine. I urge that the proposed Bill should be withdrawn.

HON. SPEAKER: At the time of discussion on Bill, you can speak.

SHRI C. MAHENDRAN: Even though Hon. Puratchi Thalaivi Amma vehemently opposed the conduct of National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET) meant for admission into Under Graduate Medical Courses, the Union Government went ahead with the implementation of NEET. Now the Union Government has brought this National Medical Commission Bill, 2017 which is nothing but an interference in the protected rights of the State Government. Moreover, the State Governments will have to give up their rights. In the interest of general public, I request that this National Medical Commission Bill, 2017 should be withdrawn immediately and then referred to a specially constituted Parliamentary Committee for eliciting its recommendations. I urge upon the Union Government to hear the views of all the stakeholders including those in the medical profession and ensure changes in the proposed Bill. Thank you.