

[4 December, 2001]

RAJYA SABHA

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI ADHIK SHIRODKAR): We shall now take up clause-by-clause consideration of the Bill.

Clause 2 was added to the Bill.

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

SHRI MUNI LALL : Sir, I move:

"That the Bill be passed."

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

**THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF PHARMACEUTICAL EDUCATION
AND RESEARCH (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2001**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS
AND FERTILISERS (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): Sir, I
move:

"That the Bill further to amend the National Institute of
Pharmaceutical Education and Research Act, 1988,
be taken into consideration."

Sir, the Act was passed in 1988. The idea was to take over the management and assets and liabilities of what is popularly known as NIPER. In the NIPER, there is a Board of Governors, and Section 4 (3) (o) provides for nomination of Members - two Members from the Lok Sabha and one Member from the Rajya Sabha - by the Speaker of the Lok Sabha and by the Chairman of the Rajya Sabha. Now, sub-section (4) of Section (4) provides for the tenure of office of other Governors, which is a fixed tenure of three years. But, so far as Members of the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha are concerned, there is no tenure fixed. So, this amendment seeks to introduce a proviso to sub-section (4), under which the tenure will be fixed in the event of a Member of the Lok Sabha or of the Rajya Sabha becoming a Minister or a Minister of State or a Deputy Minister or the Deputy Chairman of the Rajya Sabha; in which case, he automatically ceases to be a member of the Board of Governors. That is the proviso which is sought to be introduced. This Bill is merely for removing the anomaly and providing specifically for the tenure of office of members of the Board.

The question was proposed.

SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA (West Bengal): Sir, thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak on this Bill. As such, this Bill is quite benign, and the hon. Minister, being an eminent lawyer, has put more emphasis on the proviso. I am not going to comment on it. But the point is, the Bill was passed in 1988 and it concerns pharmaceutical education and research. I will take the advantage of this Bill and would like to say a few words so that Shri Mookherjee, as the Minister of State for Chemicals and Fertilisers, takes some stringent steps to correct the situation. Incidentally, this is a very, very sensitive area; but this is also such an area where people at large do not take much of interest. People do not go to buy medicines every now and then. It is only when they are sick, that is, only under some compulsory situation, they go and purchase medicines. They also do not determine the quality of the medicines. It is the doctors who determine the quality of the medicines that they have to use. So far as good manufacturing practices in this country is concerned, I must say that this Bill is of no use. In fact, even reputed big companies and corporate houses resort to not-so-good manufacturing practices by licensing to third parties.

So, I would like to know from the Minister concerned what this Commission is doing in effecting a formidable or a cognizable change in so far as the quality of pharmaceutical products is concerned. I would also like to know what research it could make. In all these years, what are the developments, so far as research is concerned in the field of pharmaceuticals? Excepting drug delivery system, no other research could take place in this country of ours, unfortunately. Sir, I am afraid, once the patent regime is enforced, research in drug delivery system will put us in a very, very difficult situation. Even though in Doha the situation could be somehow managed for some time, I am afraid this situation cannot be managed for all times to come because the multinational corporations, the big drug tycoons, are just waiting behind the fence and they are just waiting for the opportune moment when they will go on the rampage. Already, in this country of ours, not basic drugs, not bulk drugs, but a number of formulations are being indiscriminately imported and are being dumped by some of the countries. It is an issue on which we can speak for hours together. But since the ambit or the scope of the Bill is very limited, I will not go into these details. But, in concrete terms, I would like to ask the hon. Minister what these sorts of institutes are doing, what measures they are taking to effect good manufacturing practices, at least, legal

manufacturing practices, what is called LMP, in so far as pharmaceutical products are concerned, in so far as creating some graduates or some trained personnel are concerned, so that they can supervise and effect some changes in the pharmaceutical scenario. At the same time, I would say that some special emphasis should be put in so far as research of pharmaceutical products is concerned, or the research in formulations is concerned, or the research in drugs is concerned, particularly the- essential drugs. In the name of research and development, the existing companies hardly spend anything. In the name of research and development, only a guinea-pig house is being maintained; one or two animals and birds are being maintained. No effective research and development measures are being taken. So, I would like to know whether the Government, particularly the Department of Chemical and Fertilisers, would be interested to intervene in this situation and to enforce the norms, because most of these companies are in the private sector these days; the Government is virtually rolling back. Today, in the morning session, when you were also present, we made a Special Mention wherein we wanted to say that Government sector companies like SSPL or that Bengal company should not be sold out or wound up like this. But the Government has already taken this decision of disinvestment. We are fighting but we are not being able to force the Government not to disinvest. However, the situation is that the pharmaceutical sector is mostly run by the private sector companies and amongst the private sector companies, the multinationals are prominent. Even the big Indian corporate houses are also not investing much on research and development. I would like to know whether the Department of Chemical and Fertilisers was contemplating to take any stringent action so that these measures can be implemented effectively at the shop floor level, at the company level, for research and development and whether these institutes can play a definite role in improving the situation.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI ADHIK SHIRODKAR): Mr. Minister, It seems he is unhappy about the benign nature of the Bill. Next time you introduce some malignancy into it so that....

SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE: Sir, I will bear in mind the suggestions made in regard to the working of the NIPER. But that is totally beyond the scope of the Bill.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI ADHIK SHIRODKAR) : Just a minute. There is one more speaker.

SHRI DRUPAD BORGOHAIN (Assam): Sir, I have nothing much to say regarding the provisions of the Bill that the Minister has introduced. But I have some suggestions to make, particularly in regard to research work in medicines. This is in regard to a research and educational institute in the field of pharmaceuticals. I have seen that India is full of certain medicinal herbs. These herbs are there throughout India. They are there in Assam also. I know of certain herbs which have not yet been brought into the scope of research work of institutes.

If these medicines could be developed properly, then, perhaps, it would be very helpful in curing various diseases. Sir, I would like to give an example here. In our country, there is a dreaded disease called Hepatitis B. I would like to inform the House that for curing Hepatitis B and jaundice, there are very good medicinal herbs in different parts of our country. I have seen such type of medicinal herbs in Assam. I have noticed that only one root of a tree can kill the germs of Hepatitis B, and improve the functioning of liver. So, such type of medicinal plants are available in our country. If this had been brought to the notice of the Institute for carrying out research and claiming patent on these medicines, then, perhaps, it would have been very much helpful for the country as a whole. Sir, there is another disease called eczema. It is very difficult to cure eczema through allopathic medicines. There are medicinal herbs available in our country which can cure eczema. If these herbs had been used for carrying out research at the Institute and for educational purposes, then, perhaps, it would have been very helpful for our country. This is one point.

Secondly, nowadays, drugs and medicines are very costly. Their prices are soaring very high. I think it is due to the WTO regime. The patent regime has also created some problems. The Government should look into these things so that the prices of drugs are controlled and people are able to get drugs at reasonable prices. As we know, most of our people are still poor. They cannot afford to buy costly medicines for curing their diseases. Sir, these are my few points. I hope the hon. Minister would look into the matter. As far as the Bill is concerned, I support it.

SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE : Sir, I am grateful to the hon. Members for giving valuable suggestions. But, as I said, Sir, these suggestions are with regard to the working of the NIPER. I think, Sir, when the Speaker of the Lok Sabha is nominating two Members from the Lok

Sabha and the hon. Chairman of the Rajya Sabha is nominating one Member from the Rajya Sabha to the Board of Governors, the interests of the public will certainly be looked after by them, so far as medicines are concerned. Sir, this is an Institute of national importance, relating to research and development of pharmaceuticals. So, Sir, I appreciate the suggestions made by the hon. Members. We will, certainly, take them into consideration. Now, Sir, I request the House to kindly pass the Bill.

SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: Thank you very much for this kind assurance that the Committee will take care of it. But, will the Government be in a position to advance the cause of research and development where the market is dominated by the private sector, or, will the Government take the responsibility of undertaking research and development of some products, and give it to the private sector for marketing? Both ways, it is difficult. Both ways, it is a difficult situation. Would the Minister please respond in this regard?

SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE: Sir, this Institute is concerned with research and education in pharmaceuticals. Certainly, this Institute will take into consideration the various aspects suggested by the hon. Member. So far as the Government is concerned, the very idea of enacting this Bill was that this is an Institute of national importance, and they should take into consideration the education and research aspects of pharmaceuticals. Sir, I commend this Bill to the House.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI ADHIK SHIRODKAR): The question is:

"That the Bill further to amend the National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research Act, 1988, be taken into consideration.

The motion was adopted.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI ADHIK SHIRODKAR) :
Now, we shall take up clause-by-clause consideration of the Bill.

Clause 2 was added to the Bill.

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

"That the Bill be passed."

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

SHORT DURATION DISCUSSION Growing unemployment in the Country

श्री सुरेश पचौरी (मध्य प्रदेश): आदरणीय उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, भारत जैसे विकासशील देश में बेरोजगारी से हमारे मुल्क की तकदीर और तस्वीर पर काफी असर हुआ दिखाई देता है। मैं अपनी बात हमारे मुल्क के वज़ीर-आज़म श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी की बात से शुरू करना चाहूंगा। उन्होंने 15 अगस्त, 1998 को प्रधानमंत्री के रूप में यह घोषणा की थी कि 10 वर्षों में 10 करोड़ लोगों को रोजगार के साधन उपलब्ध कराए जाएंगे और उसके बाद इन्हीं घोषणावीर प्रधानमंत्री ने दिसंबर, 2001 को यह कहा कि भारत के नौजवान सरकारी नौकरियों की उम्मीद छोड़ दें, रोजगार के लिए वे या तो निजी क्षेत्र का दरवाजा खटखटाएं या खुद अपना उद्यम शुरू करें।

महोदय, जब इस देश के वज़ीर-आज़म खुलेआम यह कह रहे हों कि इस देश की तरुणाई के लिए रोजगार देने की जिम्मेदारी सरकार की नहीं है तो उस देश के भविष्य के बारे में कल्पना की जा सकती है। एक तरफ यह कहा जाता है कि नौजवान इस देश का भविष्य हैं और दूसरी तरफ उन नौजवानों को रोजगार न दिलाया जाकर यह कहा जा रहा है कि नौजवान सरकार की ओर न तार्कें।

महोदय, डिसइन्वैस्टमेंट की पॉलिसी के जरिए, डाऊनसाईजिंग की पॉलिसी के जरिए उन्हें बेरोजगार किया जा रहा है। मैं समझता हूँ कि यह देश के लिए दुर्भाग्यजनक है और यह बहुत ही दयनीय स्थिति है और इस देश की बागडोर ऐसा मुखिया संभाले, यह और भी दयनीय स्थिति है।

मान्यवर, बेरोजगार के व्यापक स्वरूप की ओर जब हम ध्यान दौड़ाते हैं तो हम पाते हैं कि बेरोजगारी की वजह से देश में अशांति फैलती है, अराजकता फैलती है और जिस आतंकवाद की दुहाई समय-समय पर दी जाती है, जिसके लिए हम सब चिंतित हैं, उस आतंकवाद को भी हवा मिलती है। एक तरफ दिल्ली के लाल किले से 15 अगस्त, 1998 को एक वचन प्रधानमंत्री द्वारा दिया जाए और दूसरी तरफ उस वचन के प्रति प्रतिबद्धता न निभाई जाए, उससे पल्ला झाड़ लिया जाए और इस देश में बेरोजगारी बढ़ती जाए और बढ़ती बेरोजगारी के बारे में सरकार बेखबर हो तो सरकार के क्रियाकलापों पर कई प्रकार के प्रश्नवाचक चह्न लग जाया करते हैं।

महोदय, इस देश में ऐसी शिक्षा उपलब्ध कराई जानी चाहिए जिससे रोजगार के अवसर मिलें और बढ़ें लेकिन हमारे यहां बेरोजगार लोगों की फौज बढ़ती जा रही है। रोजगार का सृजन नहीं हो पा रहा है और आज स्थिति यह है कि बेरोजगारी की समस्या एक बहुत बड़ी