

[12 August, 2005]

RAJYA SABHA

**The Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute for Medical Sciences and Technology,  
Trivandrum (Amendment) Bill, 2005.**

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): Sir, I beg to move:—

That the Bill to amend the Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute for Medical Sciences and Technology, Trivandrum, Act, 1980, be taken into consideration.

Sir, I wish to inform the House that what is sought to be done is to amend the Act in order to ensure that Members of Parliament, who are members of the Governing Body of the Institute, their term in the Institute ends once they hold the offices of Speaker, Deputy Speaker in Lok Sabha, Deputy Chairman in Rajya Sabha or become Ministers. Earlier, it did not apply to these offices. We are just amending the Act so that it applies to these offices.

*The question was proposed.*

PROF. P. J. KURIAN (Kerala): Sir, as the hon. Minister has said, this is a small amendment. I support this amendment. Having said that, I want to make one submission to the hon. Minister. This is the best Institute in the country for heart operations and for neurological treatment. But the unfortunate thing is this. Those who are well to do and rich, can go to corporate hospitals and a number of other hospitals. So far as the people Below Poverty Line, and very poor people are concerned, for them to go to these commercial hospitals for heart operations is very costly, especially for treatment of heart valves. There are a lot of children in the country whose heart valves are defective. They would like to get their operation done in this hospital because in corporate hospitals, it is very costly. Sir, when I was a Member of Lok Sabha, a lot of people used to come to me. Even now also, a lot of people approach me requesting for recommendation to this hospital. Shri Vijayaraghavan and Shri A. K. Antony are sitting here. They are also aware of it. The people Below Poverty Line do not get free treatment here. They have to make some payment which they cannot do because they are very poor. This Institute is funded by the Central Government. It can collect money from the rich people. There is no problem. My submission is, all those people who are Below Poverty Line, who go there for treatment, should be given free treatment.

This is my request...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI FALI S. NARIMAN): Ok; thank you.

PROF. P. J. KURIAN: I am saying these from my experience. I request the Government to allot necessary funds for them. There is no other institution which provides treatment for the poor and for people Below the Poverty Line. I would request the Minister to accept this, and if he needs more funds, he should take it up with the Cabinet and get more funds. But please ensure free treatment for all people Below the Poverty Line. This is my request.

SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN (Kerala): Sir, it is a very unique institution, and we have three categories, namely, A, B and C in this hospital. The problem is, there is a long waiting list for the poor persons. No doubt, they are providing all assistance, and for families Below the Poverty Line, the total cost is much lower than the other institutions. But there is a long waiting list. One might have to wait for three or four months. This has to be reduced. For this, the facilities have to be expanded, and whatever has to be done by the Government must be looked into. I am sure the Minister will, doubtless, take note of this.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI FALI S. NARIMAN): The question is:

That the Bill to amend the Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute for Medical Sciences and Technology, Trivandrum, Act, 1980, be taken into consideration.

*The Motion was adopted.*

*Clause 2 was added to the Bill.*

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

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Sir, I move:

That the Bill be passed.

*The question was put and the motion was adopted.*