PARLIAMENT OF INDIA

RAJYA SABHA

DEPARTMENT-RELATED PARLIAMENTARY STANDING COMMITTEE
ON
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE

THIRTY-THIRD REPORT
ON

THE POST-GRADUATE INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL EDUCATION AND RESEARCH, CHANDIGARH (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2008

(PRESENTED TO THE RAJYA SABHA ON 18th DECEMBER, 2008)
(LAIRED ON THE TABLE OF THE LOK SABHA ON 18th DECEMBER, 2008)

RAJYA SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI

DECEMBER, 2008/ AgraHayana, 1930 (Saka)
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COMPOSITION OF THE COMMITTEE (2008-09)

$1. Shri Amar Singh  --  Chairman
RAJYA SABHA
2. Shrimati Viplove Thakur
3. Prof. P.J. Kurien
4. Shri Rajeev Shukla
5. Shri Su. Thirunavukkarasar
6. Shrimati Maya Singh
7. Shri Digvijay Singh
8. Shrimati Kanimozhi
9. Dr. M.A.M. Ramaswamy
*10. Shri Lalthming Liana

LOK SABHA
11. Dr. Ram Chandra Dome
12. Smt. Maneka Gandhi
13. Smt. Bhavana P. Gawli
14. Shri Vinod Khanna
15. Shri Rajendra Kumar
16. Shri R.L.Jalappa
17. Smt. Susheela Bangar Laxman
I, the Chairman of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Health and Family Welfare, after having been authorized by the Committee to present the Report on its behalf, present this Thirty-third Report of the Committee on “The Post-Graduate Institute of Medical Education and Research, Chandigarh (Amendment) Bill, 2008”.*

In pursuance of Rule 270 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Council of States, relating to the Department-related Parliamentary Standing
Committees, the Hon’ble Chairman, Rajya Sabha, referred* the Post-Graduate Institute of Medical Education and Research, Chandigarh (Amendment) Bill, 2008 (Annexure-I), as introduced in the Rajya Sabha on the 24th October, 2008 and pending therein, to the Committee on the 7th November, 2008 for examination and report.

3. The Committee, in its meeting held on the 14th November, 2008, interacted with the officers of the Department of Health and Family Welfare, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and the Director of Post-Graduate Institute of Medical Education and Research (PGIMER), Chandigarh and sought clarifications on the various issues arising out of the Bill.

4. The Committee, thereafter, considered and adopted the draft Report on the Bill in its meeting held on the 17th December, 2008.

5. The Committee has relied upon the following documents/information in finalizing its Report:

(i) Background Note on the Bill, and

(ii) Presentation and clarification by the Additional Secretary and other officers of the Department of Health and Family Welfare and Director, PGIMER, Chandigarh.

6. For facility of reference and convenience, observations and recommendations of the Committee have been printed in bold in the body of the Report.

NEW DELHI;

December 17, 2008

Agrahayna 26, 1930 (Saka)

AMAR SINGH

Chairman, Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Health and Family Welfare

* Published in Gazette of India Extraordinary Part II Section 2, dated the 24th October 2008

REPORT

1. The Post-Graduate Institute of Medical Education and Research, Chandigarh (Amendment) Bill, 2008 (hereinafter referred to as the Bill), was introduced in the Rajya Sabha on the 24th October, 2008 and referred to the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Health and Family Welfare on the 7th November, 2008 for examination and report thereon.

2. The objective of the Bill is to provide that dental and nursing degrees and diplomas awarded by the PGIMER, Chandigarh are recognized as dental and nursing qualifications and deemed to be included in the schedules of the Dentists Act, 1948 and the Indian Nursing Council Act, 1947, respectively. The Statement of Objects and Reasons appended to the Bill reproduced below explains the reasons warranting the need for the Bill:

   “The Post-Graduate Institute of Medical Education and Research, Chandigarh was established as an autonomous body by an Act of Parliament (Act 51 of 1966). The Institute has been awarding medical degrees and diplomas which are recognized medical qualifications. Section 13 of the said Act provides that the Post-Graduate Institute of Medical Education and Research, Chandigarh may establish and maintain dental college as well as a nursing college. However, Sections 23 and 24 of the Act presently recognize only the medical degrees and diplomas granted by the Institute as medical qualifications for the purposes of the Indian Medical Council Act, 1956 and the dental and nursing degrees and diplomas are not so recognized. Therefore, there is a need to amend the Post-Graduate Institute of Medical Education and Research, Chandigarh, Act, 1966 so that the dental and nursing qualifications are also recognized for the purposes of the Dentists Act, 1948 and the Indian Nursing Council Act, 1947, respectively."

3. The amendments proposed are:-

   For Section 23 of the Post-Graduate Institute of Medical Education and Research, Chandigarh Act, 1966, the following section shall be substituted:-
Grant of medical, dental or nursing degrees, diplomas etc., by the Institute.

“23. Notwithstanding anything contained in any other law for the time being in force, the Institute shall have power to grant medical, dental or nursing degrees, diplomas and other academic distinctions and titles under this Act.”

For Section 24 of the Act, the following section shall be substituted:

Recognition of medical, dental and nursing qualifications granted by the Institute.

“24. Notwithstanding anything contained in the Indian Medical Council Act, 1956, the Dentists Act, 1948 and the Indian Nursing Council Act, 1947, the medical, dental or nursing degrees or diplomas, as the case may be, granted by the Institute under this Act shall be recognized:

(a) medical qualifications for the purpose of the Indian Medical Council Act, 1956 and shall be deemed to be included in the First Schedule to that Act;

(b) dental qualifications for the purpose of the Dentists Act, 1948 and shall be deemed to be included in the Schedule to that Act; and

(c) nursing qualifications for the purpose of the Indian Nursing Council Act, 1947 and shall be deemed to be included in the Schedule to that Act.”

4. Appearing before the Committee on the 14th November, 2008, the representatives of the Department of Health and Family Welfare and the Director, PGIMER elaborated on the background and circumstances that led to the introduction of this Bill. They stated that under sections 23 and 24 of the PGIMER Act, the Institute is empowered to grant medical degrees, diplomas and other academic distinctions and titles and notwithstanding anything contained in the Indian Medical Council Act, 1956 (IMC Act), the medical degrees and diplomas granted by the Institute under this Act are recognized medical qualifications for the purposes of that Act and are deemed to be included in the First Schedule of the IMC Act. Further, Section 13 of the PGIMER Act provides that the Institute may establish and maintain dental college as well as nursing college. Accordingly, though the Institute is
empowered to establish and maintain dental college and nursing college, only medical
degrees and diplomas granted by the Institute are automatically recognized. As a
result, the candidates trained at the Institute for dental and nursing courses have to
register themselves with the Panjab University and they are required to appear in the
examination conducted by the said University. In addition to this, they are also
governed by various regulations of the Dental and Nursing Councils. Stating that
other Institutes like All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) and the JIPMER,
Puducherry have similar provisions, they strongly advocated that PGIMER should
also have the power to grant dental and nursing degrees/diplomas and other academic
distinctions and for this, Sections 23 and 24 of the Act, are required to be amended so
that the Dental and Nursing degrees or diplomas awarded by the Institute are
recognized as Dental and Nursing qualifications and deemed to be included in the
Schedules of the Dentists Act, 1948 and the Nursing Council Act, 1947, respectively.

5. The Director, PGIMER in a written submission to the Committee has supported
the proposed amendment, stating that similar anomaly in AIIMS was removed vide an
amendment in the All India Institute of Medical Sciences Act, 1956 in the year 2002,
which provided for recognition of the Dental and Nursing qualifications and grant of
degrees and diplomas under the said Act. The Government has also taken care of this
aspect while enacting the Jawaharlal Institute of Postgraduate Medical Education &
Research (JIPMER), Puducherry Act, 2008 which was passed by the Parliament
recently. The proposed amendment would remove the existing anomaly in the
PGIMER, Chandigarh Act, 1966 and bring the Institute at par with the other similar
institutes of national importance.

6. The Committee finds merit in the argument that at present there is duality
of control inasmuch as the students of the dental and nursing courses trained at
the PGIMER, Chandigarh are not only required to appear in the examinations conducted by the Panjab University, but are also subject to regulations of the statutory bodies like the Dental and Nursing Councils. Such a situation is uncalled for not only in view of the status of the Institute being of national importance like AIIMS and JIPMER, Puducherry but also due to the inherent powers of establishing the dental and nursing colleges envisaged under Section 13 of the PGIMER, Chandigarh Act, 1966. The Committee observes that the proposed amendments under Sections 23 and 24 would empower the Institute by enabling it to grant the dental and nursing degrees, diplomas and other academic distinctions and titles under the PGIMER Act, 1966 along with the medical degrees. The Committee, therefore, welcomes the proposed amendments.

7. During the course of interaction, the Committee sought to know from the representatives of the Department and the Director, PGIMER, Chandigarh, the reasons for waiting for so many years in bringing such an amendment in the Act. In response thereto, the Committee was informed that the proposed amendment has been initiated on the pattern of AIIMS, which did it in 2002. To a specific query, as to why the Department did not come up with present amendment along with the AIIMS amendment Bill about six years back, the autonomous character of the Institutes was cited as the reason for not taking suo moto action in such matters.

8. The Committee expresses its disappointment and is not convinced by the ‘autonomy factor’ reasoning of the Department. The Department can not shy away from its responsibility as a coordinating agency. It shows not only lack of planning and foresight on the part of the Department but also lack of coordination between it and the autonomous Institutes of the country. The
Committee strongly feels that the Department has to play a more proactive role in such matters.

9. The Committee notes that the PGIMER, Chandigarh was set up as a centre of excellence of national importance to develop patterns of teaching in undergraduate and post-graduate medical education in all its branches. With its excellent academic set up and teaching hospital with about 1500 beds, the Institute has been more than successful in achieving its objectives of having high standards of medical education, bringing together in one place educational facilities of highest order and attaining self-sufficiency in post-graduate medical education to meet country's need for specialists and medical teachers. The Committee is, however, surprised to note that the Institute is not running under-graduate medical course. On a specific query in this regard, the Committee was informed by the Director, PGIMER that this was due to the fact that the Institute was envisaged to be a Post-Graduate Institute and its profile as such has been maintained all these years. The Committee was also given to understand that need for running MBBS course did not arise due to a Dental and Medical college already functioning in Chandigarh. When it was pointed out that AIIMS is already running MBBS course, the Department's representatives added that the basic function of Institutes like AIIMS, PGIMER, Chandigarh and JIPMER, Puducherry was to ensure twin objectives of providing faculty for medical colleges around the country for which there was acute shortage and providing high quality tertiary healthcare. Stress has, therefore, been for the post-graduate education only.

10. The Committee is not inclined to agree with the justification given by the Department and the Director, PGIMER regarding not having MBBS course at PGIMER, Chandigarh. The Committee does not find any logic in the argument that running MBBS course would in any way have a bearing on the profile of the
Institute, especially in view of the fact that the undergraduate courses in paramedical sciences are already being run by the Institute. This reasoning of the Committee further gets reinforced by the fact that AIIMS, the most reputed Institute in the country, is already providing undergraduate medical course without compromising with its postgraduate and referral status.

11. The Committee does not find any merit in the contention of the representatives of the Department during the course of deposition before it that AIIMS being a hi-tech hospital of a very high level, majority of undergraduate students get the opportunity to learn only on the highly sophisticated modern equipment and are therefore not very well-equipped to practice in the country and prefer to go abroad. The Committee strongly feels that having both undergraduate and postgraduate courses leads to enhanced standards of the undergraduate courses. Further, in a developing country like ours where there is resource crunch, the available resources can not be left unutilized citing the reasons like availability of other colleges nearby. India is a vast country and due to its demography and uneven economy of various States, it is not possible to have colleges uniformly scattered. The Committee also takes cognizance of the reported move of the Government for having Public-Private-Partnership in the field of medical education whereby citing the resource crunch, private players are being invited to use the Government Hospitals as the training grounds. In sharp contrast, available resources with a premier Institute like the PGIMER, Chandigarh are being allowed to remain under-utilized. The Committee understands that with very little investment, quite a few medical graduates can be groomed by the Institute. Further, technically, there is no problem for the Institute in this regard, as the Act already permits the Institute to award medical degrees or diplomas etc. Therefore, the Committee strongly recommends the
Department to take necessary steps to start MBBS course in the PGIMER, Chandigarh at the earliest so that precious tax-payers money, in the form of existing infrastructural facilities, is optimally utilized.

RECOMMENDATIONS/ OBSERVATIONS- AT A GLANCE

The Committee finds merit in the argument that at present there is duality of control inasmuch as the students of the dental and nursing courses trained at the PGIMER, Chandigarh are not only required to appear in the examinations conducted by the Panjab University, but are also subject to regulations of the statutory bodies like the Dental and Nursing Councils. Such a situation is uncalled for not only in view of the status of the Institute being of national importance like AIIMS and JIPMER, Puducherry but also due to the inherent powers of establishing the dental and nursing colleges envisaged under Section 13 of the PGIMER, Chandigarh Act, 1966. The Committee observes that the proposed amendments under Sections 23 and 24 would empower the Institute by enabling it to grant the dental and nursing degrees, diplomas and other academic distinctions and titles under the PGIMER Act, 1966 along with the medical degrees. The Committee, therefore, welcomes the proposed amendments. (Para 6)

The Committee expresses its disappointment and is not convinced by the ‘autonomy factor’ reasoning of the Department. The Department can not shy away from its responsibility as a coordinating agency. It shows not only lack of planning and foresight on the part of the Department but also lack of coordination between it and the autonomous Institutes of the country. The Committee strongly feels that the Department has to play a more proactive role in such matters. (Para 8)
The Committee is not inclined to agree with the justification given by the Department and the Director, PGIMER regarding not having MBBS course at PGIMER, Chandigarh. The Committee does not find any logic in the argument that running MBBS course would in any way have a bearing on the profile of the Institute, especially in view of the fact that the undergraduate courses in paramedical sciences are already being run by the Institute. This reasoning of the Committee further gets reinforced by the fact that AIIMS, the most reputed Institute in the country, is already providing undergraduate medical course without compromising with its postgraduate and referral status. (Para 10)

The Committee does not find any merit in the contention of the representatives of the Department during the course of deposition before it that AIIMS being a hi-tech hospital of a very high level, majority of undergraduate students get the opportunity to learn only on the highly sophisticated modern equipment and are therefore not very well-equipped to practice in the country and prefer to go abroad. The Committee strongly feels that having both undergraduate and postgraduate courses leads to enhanced standards of the undergraduate courses. Further, in a developing country like ours where there is resource crunch, the available resources can not be left unutilized citing the reasons like availability of other colleges nearby. India is a vast country and due to its demography and uneven economy of various States, it is not possible to have colleges uniformly scattered. The Committee also takes cognizance of the reported move of the Government for having Public-Private-Partnership in the field of medical education whereby citing the resource crunch, private players are being invited to use the Government Hospitals as the training grounds. In sharp contrast, available resources with a premier Institute like the PGIMER, Chandigarh are being allowed to remain under-utilized. The Committee
understands that with very little investment, quite a few medical graduates can be groomed by the Institute. Further, technically, there is no problem for the Institute in this regard, as the Act already permits the Institute to award medical degrees or diplomas etc. Therefore, the Committee strongly recommends the Department to take necessary steps to start MBBS course in the PGIMER, Chandigarh at the earliest so that precious tax-payers money, in the form of existing infrastructural facilities, is optimally utilized. (Para 11)

MINUTES

The Committee met at 3.00 p.m. on Friday, the 14th November, 2008 in Committee Room C, Ground Floor, Parliament House Annexe, New Delhi.

MEMBERS PRESENT

RAJYA SABHA

1. Shri Amar Singh -- Chairman
2. Shrimati Viplove Thakur
3. Prof. P.J. Kurien
4. Smt. Maya Singh
5. Shri Digvijay Singh

LOK SABHA

6. Smt. Susheela Bangaru Laxman
7. Shri S. Mallikarjuniah
8. Shri Rasheed Masood
9. Dr. Chinta Mohan
10. Smt. K. Rani
11. Shri Pannian Ravindran
12. Shri B. Vinod Kumar

SECRETARIAT

Shrimati Vandana Garg Joint Secretary
Shri R. B. Gupta Director
Shrimati Arpana Mendiratta Deputy Director
Shri Dinesh Singh Assistant Director
WITNESSES

REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE

1. Shri G. Balachandran, Addl. Secretary
2. Ms. Shalini Prasad, Joint Secretary
3. Shri Santosh Kumar, Director

REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE POST GRADUATE INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL EDUCATION AND RESEARCH (PGIMER), CHANDIGARH

1. Dr. K.K. Talwar, Director

2. At the outset, the Chairman welcomed Members of the Committee and apprised them of the agenda of the day. *

3. The Committee then heard views of the Additional Secretary along with other officers of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and the Director, PGIMER, Chandigarh on the Post-Graduate Institute of Medical Education and Research, Chandigarh (Amendment) Bill, 2008. Members raised some queries which were replied to.

4. *

5. A verbatim record of the proceedings was kept.

6. The Committee then adjourned at 4.00 p.m.

NEW DELHI
14th November, 2008

ARPANA MENDIRATTA
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

* relates to other matter
The Committee met at 4.00 p.m. on Wednesday, the 17th December, 2008 in Committee Room No.63, First Floor, Parliament House, New Delhi.

MEMBERS PRESENT

RAJYA SABHA
1. Shri Amar Singh -- Chairman
2. Shrimati Viplove Thakur
3. Shrimati Maya Singh
4. Shri Lalhming Liana

LOK SABHA
5. Dr. Ram Chandra Dome
6. Shrimati Maneka Gandhi
7. Shrimati Bhavana P. Gawli
8. Shri R.L. Jalappa
9. Dr. Chinta Mohan
10. Dr. R. Senthil
11. Shri Uday Singh
12. Dr. Karan Singh Yadav

SECRETARIAT

Shrimati Vandana Garg Joint Secretary
Shri Dinesh Singh Assistant Director

2. At the outset, the Chairman welcomed Members of the Committee. The Committee then considered the draft Report on the Post-Graduate Institute of Medical Education & Research, Chandigarh (Amendment) Bill, 2008. After some discussion, the Committee adopted the Report.

3. The Committee, thereafter, decided that the Report may be presented to the Rajya Sabha and laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha on Thursday, the
18th December, 2008. The Committee authorized the Chairman of the Committee and in his absence Smt. Viplove Thakur to present the Report in Rajya Sabha, and, Dr. Chinta Mohan, and in his absence Dr. Karan Singh Yadav to lay the Report on the Table of the Lok Sabha.

4. Thereafter, the Committee took stock of the progress of the issues under its examination viz. the Public-Private Partnership in Government hospitals, AIIMS like institutions and district hospitals; feasibility of increasing seats at the PG level and reducing duration of Specialty and Super-specialty courses; representation received from Faculty Association, AIIMS regarding proposed move of AIIMS authorities to implement the reservation policy for SCs/STs/OBCs in all categories of faculty posts; and the acute shortage of vaccines being faced by a number of States due to the closure of the three Vaccine producing units, namely, Central Research Institute, Kasauli, Pasteur Institute of India, Conoor and BCG Vaccine Laboratory, Chennai and decided to meet on the 6th January 2009 to hear the views of the Medical Council of India along with the Secretary, Department of Health & Family Welfare and the Directors of the three Vaccine producing institutes on the relevant issues.

4. The Committee then adjourned at 4.30 p.m. to meet again on the 6th January, 2009.

NEW DELHI
17th December 2008

VANDANA GARG
JOINT SECRETARY
THE POST-GRADUATE INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL EDUCATION AND RESEARCH, CHANDIGARH (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2008

BE it enacted by Parliament in the Fifty-ninth Year of the Republic of India as follows:—

1. (1) This Act may be called the Post-Graduate Institute of Medical Education and Research, Chandigarh (Amendment) Act, 2008.

(2) It shall come into force on such date as the Central Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, appoint.

2. In the Post-Graduate Institute of Medical Education and Research, Chandigarh, Act, 1966 (hereinafter referred to as the principal Act), for section 23, the following section shall be substituted, namely:—

“23. Notwithstanding anything contained in any other law for the time being in force, the Institute shall have power to grant medical, dental or nursing degrees, diplomas and other academic distinctions and titles under this Act.”.
3. For section 24 of the principal Act, the following section shall be substituted, namely:—

“24. Notwithstanding anything contained in the Indian Medical Council Act, 1956, the Dentists Act, 1948 and the Indian Nursing Council Act, 1947, the medical dental or nursing degrees or diplomas, as the case may be, granted by the Institute under this Act shall be recognised—

(a) medical qualifications for the purpose of the Indian Medical Council Act, 1956 and shall be deemed to be included in the First Schedule to that Act;

(b) dental qualifications for the purpose of the Dentists Act, 1948 and shall be deemed to be included in the Schedule to that Act; and

(c) nursing qualifications for the purpose of the Indian Nursing Council Act, 1947 and shall be deemed to be included in the Schedule to that Act.”.
The Post-Graduate Institute of Medical Education and Research, Chandigarh was established as an autonomous body by an Act of Parliament (Act 51 of 1966). The Institute has been awarding medical degrees and diplomas which are recognised medical qualifications. Section 13 of the said Act provides that the Post-Graduate Institute of Medical Education and Research, Chandigarh may establish and maintain dental college as well as a nursing college. However, Sections 23 and 24 of the Act presently recognise only the medical degrees and diplomas granted by the Institute as medical qualifications for the purposes of the Indian Medical Council Act, 1956 and the dental and nursing degrees and diplomas are not so recognised. Therefore, there is a need to amend the Post-Graduate Institute of Medical Education and Research, Chandigarh, Act, 1966 so that the dental and nursing qualifications are also recognised for the purposes of the Dentists Act, 1948 and the Indian Nursing Council Act, 1947, respectively.

2. The Bill seeks to achieve the above objects.

NEW DELHI;

The 17th October, 2008.

ANBUMANI RAMADOSS.
ANNEXURE

EXTRACTS FROM THE POST-GRADUATE INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL EDUCATION AND RESEARCH,
CHANDIGARH, ACT, 1966 NO.
51 OF 1966

23. Notwithstanding anything contained in any other law for the time being in force, the Institute shall have power to grant medical degrees, diplomas and other academic distinctions and titles under this Act.

Grant of medical degrees, diplomas, etc., by Institute.

24. Notwithstanding anything contained in the Indian Medical Council Act, 1956, the medical degrees and diplomas granted by the Institute under this Act shall be recognised medical qualifications for the purposes of that Act and shall be deemed to be included in the First Schedule to that Act.

Recognition of medical qualifications granted by the Institute
RAJYA SABHA

A BILL

further to amend the Post-Graduate Institute of Medical Education and Research, Chandigarh, Act, 1966.

(Dr. Anbumani Ramadoss, Minister of Health & Family Welfare)

GMGIPRND—3652RS(S-5)—23.10.2008.