



Standing Committee Report Summary

The Homoeopathy Central Council (Amendment) Bill, 2005

- The Standing Committee on Health and Family Welfare (2005-06) submitted its 10th Report on The Homoeopathy Central Council (Amendment) Bill, 2005 on 29th July 2005. The Chairperson of the Committee was Shri Amar Singh.
- The Homoeopathy Central Council Act, 1973 (Principal Act) created a central council to regulate the homoeopathy profession, recognize homoeopathic institutions, set minimum standards for education, and maintain a register of all practitioners. The Committee believes that each homoeopathic medical college should be affiliated to a university.
- Within three years of the Bill being passed, all existing homoeopathic colleges must seek permission from the central government. The Committee recommends that this happen within one year.
- Currently, the council has members from each state with registered homoeopathic practitioners, a representative from each homoeopathic university, and centrally appointed members with specialized knowledge who comprise no more than 40% of the council.
- The Bill provides for a fixed term of five years and requires the central government to reconstitute the council three months before the term's expiration. The Committee supports the fixed terms but recommends that the government start elections six months prior to expiration.
- The Principal Act allows members to serve multiple terms. This Bill restricts this to two terms, and the Committee recommends three terms.
- Following commencement of this Bill, the existing central council is dissolved and the central government shall appoints a Board of Administrators until it is reconstituted. The Bill provides provisions for the central government to reconstitute the board and notify the selected members. The Committee notes that dissolving an elected body is undemocratic. It also recommends removing the Board of Administrators as it will delay the election of new council members.
- The Bill specifies that a council member can be removed on the recommendation of the majority of members. If the vice-president is removed, the Bill permits the central government to appoint a person to fill the vacancy. The Committee believes that the vice-president should be elected by and from the existing council members. The Committee also recommends elections to be held within one month rather than three.
- The Bill also allows the central government to remove nominated members and dissolve any council committee on the ground of misconduct. The Committee believes that an elected body cannot be dissolved by an executive order and the existing Commission of Inquiry is sufficient. They also state that the central government should not remove nominated members as this provision is unfair to nominated members. The Committee recommends deleting both clauses.
- In the Bill, the central government may guide the central council. The Committee observes that this gives the central government undue power and may hinder the Council's work. They recommend deleting the clause.
- The Bill gives the central government the power to issue directions to the council to revoke or amend any regulation. The Committee observes that this clause gives the government too much power over the council and recommends removing this section.

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