



Standing Committee Report Summary

The Architects (Amendment) Bill, 2010

- The Departmentally-Related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Human Resource Development submitted its Two Hundred Twenty-Ninth Report on 'The Architects (Amendment) Bill, 2010' on February 25, 2011. The Chairperson was Oscar Fernandes.
- The Committee recommended the adoption of an amendment that updates the status of the All India Council for Technical Education as a statutory body in the Bill.
- The Bill seeks to restrict the terms of office for elected or nominated members of the Council of Architecture to three years. It removes the words "or until his successor has been duly elected or nominated, whichever is later" from the principal Act. The Committee expressed reservations about whether this proposed amendment would achieve the objective of timely and fair elections. It stated that this might lead to a vacuum in the Council if elections are unable to be held on time for any reason.
- The Bill also proposes that the names and addresses of the elected/nominated members of the Council be notified by the central government. The Committee felt that this proposal is inconsistent with the proposal to restrict the term of office strictly to three years. It stated that there should be a clear provision making it obligatory for the central government to notify the names within the stipulated time frame of 15 days.
- The Bill provides for the issuance of directions by the central government to the Council of Architecture in the public interest. Such directions can require the Council to make or amend any regulations or to give priority to specified work. The Committee expressed that directions by the central government can be beneficial if they are on policy matters but can otherwise disrupt the day-to-day functioning of a statutory body. The Committee pointed out that this proposed provision is in contravention of the regulation making power provided to the Council. The Committee expressed the view that this proposed provision is uncalled for and needs to be revised so that the central government can give directions only on policy matters.
- The Bill gives the power to the central government to supersede the Council of Architecture for a period not exceeding two years in case the Council is unable to act, persistently defaults in the performance of its duty, exceeds or abuses its powers or does not comply with the directions issued by the central government. The Committee expressed its view that instead of such an amendment, a provision on the power to refer to a Commission of Inquiry should be incorporated in the Act.

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