

Standing Committee Report Summary

The NITSER (Amendment) Bill, 2013

- The Standing Committee on Human Resource Development (Chairperson: Mr Birender Singh) submitted its report on the National Institutes of Technology, Science Education and Research (Amendment) Bill, 2013 on December 9, 2013.
- The Bill was introduced in the Lok Sabha on March 4, 2013 and referred to the Standing Committee on May 17, 2013.
- The Bill amends the National Institutes of Technology, Science Education and Research (Amendment) Act, 2007 to incorporate the Bengal Engineering and Science University, Shibpur, West Bengal (BESU) under it. BESU is renamed the Indian Institute of Engineering, Science and Technology, Shibpur, West Bengal. It repeals the Bengal Engineering and Science University, Shibpur, West Bengal Act, 2004.
- The National Institutes of Technology Act, 2007 declares certain institutions of technology institutions of national importance and provides for research and training in these institutes.
- The Act was amended in 2012 and a number of new institutes were included within its ambit. The amendment also changed the title of the Act to National Institutes of Technology, Science Education and Research (Amendment) Act, 2007.
- The Committee supports the decision to upgrade BESU from a state university to an institute of national importance. It states that the up-gradation of BESU will facilitate the development of programmes offered and also result in creating scientifically and technologically capable manpower to lead in India's strategic sectors.
- The Committee recommends that care be taken to safeguard the interests of the employees and faculty of BESU as it is the first state university to be declared an institute of national importance.
- The Bill seeks to establish a common Council for all institutes covered by the Act. As the Bill covers institutes with varied administrative structures and academic curricula, the Committee recommends a separate central Council for each kind of institution covered by the Bill, instead of a common Council.
- Under the Bill, there is no provision for reservation of seats for students from the state. The Committee recommends reservation for students from within the state, as is given for National Institutes of Technology under the National Institutes of Technology, Science Education and Research (Amendment) Act, 2007.
- Unlike other institutions covered by the Bill, BESU is not sponsored by a society, but is a university established by the state legislature. The Committee recommends that the Bill should be amended suitably to insert a definition of a university to cover BESU.
- The Committee recommends that Regulations and Statutes should be formulated quickly under the new Act to facilitate a smooth transition from a state university to a national one.
- The Committee suggests that the recommendations of the Anandkrishnan Committee, constituted by the Ministry of Human Resource Development in 2005, be implemented at the earliest. These deal with the pattern of governance, academic system, infrastructure, etc.

DISCLAIMER: This document is being furnished to you for your information. You may choose to reproduce or redistribute this report for non-commercial purposes in part or in full to any other person with due acknowledgement of PRS Legislative Research ("PRS"). The opinions expressed herein are entirely those of the author(s). PRS makes every effort to use reliable and comprehensive information, but PRS does not represent that the contents of the report are accurate or complete. PRS is an independent, not-for-profit group. This document has been prepared without regard to the objectives or opinions of those who may receive it.