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Title : Need to set up a Committee to look into the safety and security aspect of the newly introduced course on "Nuclear Science and Technology" being taught by several institutes in the country.

SHRI P.K. BIJU (ALATHUR): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the House towards the introduction of new courses in a highly sensitive subject such as 'Nuclear Science and Technology' which raises grave security concerns. *â€¦ (Interruptions)* Many institutes have started offering Diploma and Masters Degree courses in nuclear technology in addition to the existing ones in Government Institutes. But this sudden proliferation raises questions on regulation. Can any institute start a course as specialized as nuclear science, given the sensitivity of the security issues involved? *...(Interruptions)*

उपाध्यक्ष महोदय : आप बैठ जाइए।

*â€¦ (व्यवधान)*

उपाध्यक्ष महोदय : आप दोनों लोग बैठ जाइए।

*â€¦ (व्यवधान)*

श्री गोविन्द प्रसाद मिश्र : यह बहुत गंभीर मामला है। *...(व्यवधान)*

उपाध्यक्ष महोदय : कृपया बैठ जाइए।

*â€¦ (व्यवधान)*

श्री हंसराज गं. अहीर : मंत्री जी बिल लाने की बात कह रहे हैं। *...(व्यवधान)*

उपाध्यक्ष महोदय : सिर्फ इनकी बात रिकार्ड में जाएगी।

*(Interruptions) â€¦\**

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SHRI P.K. BIJU : Sir, I am raising the subject regarding the starting of Nuclear Science and Technology courses throughout the country even without any permission from regulatory agencies like UGC and other agencies. The private players are starting courses on Nuclear Science and Technology in the country and they are giving Masters and Diploma Degrees in the country.

It is granted that UGC recognised universities are free to start their own courses, but, whether a mere approval from the UGC would be enough in setting up a laboratory that uses radioactive material?

Approval from the respective regulators is still needed for certain courses. For instance, all engineering courses have to be cleared by the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) and when it comes to nuclear technology the need for regulation is more important.

In India, the Governments and the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) are the nodal agency for all things relating to nuclear. Apart from the issue of who will regulate these courses, there is also the question of whether it is necessary to have specialised Bachelor's level courses in nuclear science considering the fact that there is nothing different (in a nuclear course) apart from the basics in mechanical engineering that one needs to learn before understanding the issues involved in radiation.

It is clearly a smart marketing exercise aimed at tapping the growing market. It would also be interesting to know whether there have been any common guidelines of safety moulded for setting up of laboratories for these courses. Against these backdrops, I would urge the Ministry to set up a committee to further probe into this matter of high safety and security concerns. Thank you.