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Title : Need to review the amendment to the Memorandum of Association to save the IIMS from corporatization/privatization.

SHRI P.K. BIJU (ALATHUR): Sir I want to bring to your kind attention and the attention of the House to an important matter regarding the privatization and corporatisation of India's top business school IIMs. The IIMs are considered the top business schools in India. All the IIMs are completely autonomous institutes owned and financed by the Central Government. It is a State instrumentality within the meaning of Article 12 of the Constitution of India. IIM has an affirmative action policy on caste-based reserved quotas. As per the provisions in the Indian Constitution, the IIMs follow a reservation policy 15 per cent for the Scheduled Castes and 7.5 per cent of seats are reserved for Scheduled Tribes. The Other Backward Classes have been provided with 27 per cent reservation with effect from 2008 with the consent of the Supreme Court of India which IIMs would implement in a phased manner during three years.

It has been noted that there is a silent attempt to privatise and corporatise IIMs. This has been made possible through the amendment of the Memorandum of Association which gives complete autonomy to the Board of Governors, diluting the current Government control and collegiate governance in these institutions, gives power to make and amend rules and by-laws and deal with property. All these are done at the behest of the reports of Bhargava Committee and Balakrishnan Committee which were set up by the Ministry of Human Resource Development. This has a direct bearing on the public character of these institutions. No public debate on this issue has been made. The Board of Governors of the IIM-B and IIM-A have already adopted the amended Memorandum of Association with the consent of the Ministry of Human Resource Development. This is an inexcusable step since it will subvert the social justice of weaker sections and pose a grave threat to academic freedom. Making this institution parallel to private institutions would lead the teachers to opt for high paying private institutions which will be another blow to the already resource-crunched institution.

Hence, I urge the Ministry of Human Resource Development to review the amendment and maintain the public character of India's prestigious business schools, the Indian Institutes of Management.