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Title: Discussion on the motion for consideration of the National Accreditation Regulatory Authority for Higher Educational Institutions Bill, 2010.

MADAM SPEAKER: Now, item No. 9, Shri Kapil Sibal.

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): I beg to move:

"That the Bill to make provisions for assessment of academic quality of higher educational institutions, programmes conducted therein and their infrastructure through mandatory accreditation by independent accreditation agencies and to establish a statutory Authority for the said purpose and to provide for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto, be taken into consideration."

MADAM SPEAKER: Do you want to speak?

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: I want to speak. Madam, as you are aware that one of the big challenges that this country is facing in the context of higher education is lack of quality. We have very disturbing stories about institutions in many parts of this country where institutions are running in one room, degrees are granted and there is not adequate infrastructure for the purposes of imparting education.

MADAM SPEAKER: Hon. Members, let us have some order in the House. Please maintain discipline and order.

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: It is, therefore, necessary for the nation to address the issue of quality. On the one side, we have passed the Right to Education Act to ensure that larger numbers move into class IX and class X and into higher secondary education and thereafter into college.

As you are aware, the gross enrolment ratio in this country for children entering higher education in the age group of 18-24 is relatively low as compared to the developed countries. Some say that it is 15 per cent; some say it is 17 per cent. But if you compare this to the gross enrolment ratio in the developed world, in no developed country is it less than 40 per cent. Unless there are enough graduates moving into higher education, we will not have the kind of quality education that is required because the wealth of a nation depends on the number of people who move into higher education.

**अध्यक्ष महोदया :** सदन में बहुत शोर मच रहा है, कृपया शांति बनाए रखिए, आप लोग बैठ जाइए।

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: I envisage that by 2020, the gross enrolment ratio in this country will move from about 15 to 17 per cent as it is today, to around 30 per cent. And there will be a mushrooming of institutions of higher education. At the moment, for the 15 to 17 million children in that age group moving into higher education, the number of universities that serve them is about 600 and the number of college is about 35,000. If we increase the gross enrolment ratio from 15 or 17 per cent to 30 per cent, we would require another 800 to a thousand universities and perhaps another 40,000 to 45,000 colleges. With the mushrooming of such institutions to meet the demands of the youth, we will require not just institutions to be built but we will require quality institutions so that our children get quality education. For that, we need processes in place. It is with that in mind that the Government has decided to set up a National Accreditation Regulatory Authority for higher educational institutions. What this means is that every institution will have to go through a mandatory process of assessment and accreditation.

**17.59 hrs** (Dr. M. Thambidurai *in the Chair*)

Unless we have this as a mandatory framework, institutions will keep on mushrooming throughout the country and the kind of quality education that our young people desire will not be imparted to them. This is the intent of the Bill. At the same time, we want to make sure that there are enough incentives and the processes for the purposes of accreditation are norm based so that there is no element of discretion. You are aware that nowadays one of the biggest challenges that our institutions face is that inspectors come from Delhi. They may belong to AICTE; they may belong to UGC; they may belong to any other statutory regulatory authority like NCTE and then standards are judged by the very institutions which are the regulatory authorities. There are a lot of allegations that are made today for those who go and inspect buildings. We must

make sure about this.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Are you going to continue tomorrow or conclude it now?

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: I will continue tomorrow.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now the House is extended till the 'Zero Hour' is over.

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**18.00 hrs.**

MR. CHAIRMAN : The House will now take up 'Zero Hour'.