

IIM bill likely to be tabled in Parliament on Thursday

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The much awaited Indian Institutes of Management Bill, 2017 which will give degree granting power to these institutes is expected to be tabled in Parliament on Thursday.(HT File Photo)



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The bill was recently approved by the union cabinet and a few changes were made to the draft IIM bill.

The 20 institutes will be declared institutes of national importance and the board through an independent agency or group of experts would review not only the “performance of the institutes” but “also performance of its faculty”. Earlier the board was to review and evaluate its own performance within three years of incorporation of the institutes.

The provision of the President of India as the Visitor of every institute has been dropped. “The chairperson and director will be appointed by the Board of Governors. The removal/resignation of chairperson and director would now also be handled by the board,” said a source.

In other centrally funded institutions such as the IITs and NITs, the President is the Visitor and appoints the directors and chairpersons on the advice of the HRD Ministry. According to the revised draft the chairperson is to be an eminent person appointed by the board, and the director will also be appointed by the board. An eminent person has been defined as persons distinguished in field of industry, education, science and technology or public administration among others.

The “eminent person” will be shortlisted by a search-cum-selection committee and is likely to be appointed as the Forum’s chairperson for a term of two years.

“For removal of director, the board initially had to recommend the central government for holding the inquiry. The order for removal would come from Board and not the Visitor,” added the source. The government has been keen to grant more autonomy to these institutes and more powers have been granted to their governing boards.

Being societies, IIMs are not authorised to award degrees and, hence, they have been awarding Post Graduate Diploma and Fellow Programme in Management. While these awards are treated as equivalent to MBAs and Ph.D, respectively, they are not universally accepted, especially the Fellow Programme.

For reservation in faculty, sources said law of land would prevail. It is learnt that earlier under former HRD minister Smriti Irani, the draft Bill contained a provision to have the HRD minister as the chairperson of a Coordination Forum, but after consultations it was decided that a selection panel would choose the chairperson.