

**Bill No. 168 of 2024**

THE NATIONAL MEDICAL COMMISSION  
(AMENDMENT) BILL, 2024

By

Ms. S. JOTHIMANI, M.P.

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BILL

*to amend the National Medical Commission Act, 2019.*

BE it enacted by Parliament in the Seventy-fifth Year of the Republic of India as follows:—

Short title and  
commencement.

1. (1) This Act may be called the National Medical Commission (Amendment) Act, 2024.

5 (2) It shall come into force with immediate effect.

Amendment of  
Section 14.

2. In section 14 of the National Medical Commission Act, 2019 (hereinafter referred to as the principal Act), in sub-section (3) after the existing proviso the following proviso shall be inserted, namely:—

30 of 2019.

“Provided further that notwithstanding anything contained in any provision of this Act, the provisions of this section shall not apply, in relation to the National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test, at the undergraduate level or postgraduate or superspeciality level for admission in State Government colleges, State Universities, constituent colleges of the said State Universities, State medical educational institutions and State Government seats in Private Colleges affiliated to the State Universities, unless the concerned State has voluntarily opted for such National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test.”.

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Amendment of  
Section 15.

3. In section 15 of the principal Act, in sub-section (6), after the existing proviso, the following proviso shall be inserted, namely:—

“Provided further that this section shall not apply to persons studying in the State Government colleges, State Universities, constituent colleges of the said State Universities, State medical educational institutions and Private Colleges affiliated to the State Universities, unless the concerned State Government has voluntarily opted for the National Exit Test.”.

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Amendment of  
Section 33.

4. In section 33 of the principal Act, in sub-section (1), after the existing proviso, the following proviso shall be inserted, namely:—

“Provided further that any person who has completed his undergraduate medical course from college, university and medical institutions other than Central Government institution in States which have opted out of the National Exit Test, shall, after the completion of his undergraduate medical course, be entitled to a license to practice medicine and shall have his name and qualifications be registered on the rolls of the State or National Register, as the case may be.”.

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## STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

The National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET) is conducted by the National Testing Agency for admission to the undergraduate and postgraduate medical courses in all medical institutions including those governed under any other Law, in accordance with Section 14 of the National Medical Commission Act, 2019. Prior to the introduction of NEET, all States were free to implement their own selection criteria. Admission to private medical colleges and minority institutions was through their own entrance exams. Many States, including the State of Tamil Nadu, have expressed their concerns against holding a single test for medical education and asked for flexibility in choosing their own admission criteria.

The Tamil Nadu Assembly passed a resolution stating that the students graduating from its own State Board were being put at an unfair disadvantage in comparison to students from CBSE (Central Board of Secondary Education) Board. In fact, Justice A.K. Rajan Committee, constituted by the Tamil Nadu Government, observed that post the introduction of NEET, fewer students were being granted entry into private and Government medical colleges.

The national test is also deemed non-egalitarian and discriminatory by the Committee that found that most of the selected candidates had availed academic support/coaching from private institutions. This puts the students from underprivileged backgrounds and those residing in rural areas at a huge disadvantage. Education is supposed to help liberate a person from her/his economic constraints. Unfortunately, in this case, economic constraints seem to be affecting access to education for the students. Before NEET, about 65% of the selected medical candidates were from rural background (as per a finding by Justice A.K. Rajan Committee).

The conduct of NEET in regional languages has also raised concerns by States such as Tamil Nadu, Gujarat and West Bengal, claiming that the difficulty level of tests varies from that of English. The Justice Rajan Committee observed that the proportion of students from Tamil-medium schools in the selected candidates reduced down to 1.9% from around 15% before NEET.

The financial burden imposed by NEET upon students coupled with the stress of preparing for an additional exam besides the Class 12 Board exams, has also led to many NEET aspirants committing suicides.

Multiple protests by NEET aspirants have been witnessed in Tamil Nadu. If a test that was introduced in the supposed interest of the students is causing such unrest amongst the very students it was supposed to benefit, it is of utmost importance that we reassess our decisions and rescind the provisions making NEET mandatory.

Hence this Bill.

NEW DELHI;  
November 11, 2024

S. JOTHIMANI

# ANNEXURE

[EXTRACTS FROM THE NATIONAL MEDICAL COMMISSION ACT, 2019.]

(ACT NO. 30 OF 2019)

	*	*	*	*	*
National Eligibility cum-Entrance Test.	<b>14. (1)</b>	*	*	*	*
	(2)	*	*	*	*

(3) The Commission shall specify by regulations the manner of conducting common counselling by the designated authority for admission to undergraduate and postgraduate super-speciality seats in all the medical institutions which are governed by the provisions of this Act:

Provided that the designated authority of the Central Government shall conduct the common counselling for all India seats and the designated authority of the State Government shall conduct the common counselling for the seats at the State level.

	*	*	*	*	*
National Exit Test.	<b>15 (1)</b>	*	*	*	*
	(2)	*	*	*	*
	(3)	*	*	*	*
	(4)	*	*	*	*
	(5)	*	*	*	*

(6) The Commission shall specify by regulations the manner of conducting common counselling by the designated authority for admission to the postgraduate broad-speciality seats in the medical institutions referred to in sub-section (5):

Provided that the designated authority of the Central Government shall conduct the common counselling for All India seats and the designated authority of the State Government shall conduct the common counselling for the seats at the State level to practice medicine as medical practitioners and for enrolment in the State Register or the National Register, as the case may be.

	*	*	*	*	*
Rights of persons to have licence to practice and to be enrolled in National Register or State Register and their obligations thereto.	<b>33. (1)</b>	Any person who qualifies the National Exit Test held under section 15 shall be granted a licence to practice medicine and shall have his name and qualifications enrolled in the National Register or a State Register, as the case may be:			

Provided that a person who has been registered in the Indian Medical Register maintained under the Indian Medical Council Act, 1956 prior to the coming into force of this Act and before the National Exit Test becomes operational under sub-section (3) of section 15, shall be deemed to have been registered under this Act and be enrolled in the National Register maintained under this Act:

Provided that a person who has been registered in the Indian Medical Register maintained under the Indian Medical Council Act, 1956 (102 of 1956) prior to the coming into force of this Act and before the National Exit Test becomes operational under sub-section (3) of section 15, shall be deemed to have been registered under this Act and be enrolled in the National Register maintained under this Act.

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LOK SABHA

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to amend the National Medical Commission Act, 2019.

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*(Ms. S. Jothimani, M.P.)*