

National Commission for Indian System of Medicine Bill, 2019

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Source: PRS India

Recently the Standing Committee on Health and Family Welfare (**Chairperson: Prof. Ram Gopal Yadav**) submitted its report on the National Commission for Indian System of Medicine Bill, 2019. **The Bill seeks to repeal the Indian Medicine Central Council Act, 1970** and provide for the regulation of education and practice of Ayurveda, Unani, Siddha, and Sowa-Rigpa

Key observations and recommendations of the Committee

Composition of the National Commission for Indian System of Medicine (NCISM):

- The Committee observed that the strength of the NCISM and the representation from states as proposed in the Bill must be increased for its effective functioning.
- It noted that there were eight lakh registered AYUSH doctors in India. Of these, 56% of doctors belong to Ayurveda, 6.4% to Unani, and 1.4% to Siddha and Naturopathy. The Bill provides for three members to be elected from Ayurveda and one each from Unani, Siddha, and Sowa-Rigpa.
- To ensure proportionate representation of doctors in the NCISM, the Committee recommended **increasing the representation of Ayurveda doctors** from three members to six members.
- The Committee recommended that the total strength of the NCISM be increased from 29 members to 44 members.

Autonomous Boards: The Bill sets up certain autonomous boards

under the supervision of the NCISM. These boards are:

1. The Board of Ayurveda and the Board of Unani, Siddha, and Sowa-Rigpa
2. The Medical Assessment and Rating Board for Indian System of Medicine, and
3. **The Ethics and Medical Registration Board.**

To provide for a central regulatory framework for Yoga and Naturopathy, the Committee recommended setting up a **Board of Yoga and Naturopathy under the NCISM.**

It also proposed the **constitution of a Board of Research to facilitate research programmes in the Indian System of Medicine, Yoga, and Naturopathy.**