

# Standing Committee report on the NIFTEM Bill, 2019

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The Standing Committee on Agriculture **Chaired by Mr. P. C. Gaddigoudar** submitted its report on the National Institutes of Food Technology, Entrepreneurship and Management Bill, 2019.

## About the Bill

- **The Bill declares certain institutes of food technology, entrepreneurship, and management as institutions of national importance.**
- These are the National Institute of Food Technology, Entrepreneurship and Management (NIFTEM), Kundli and the Indian Institute of Food Processing Technology (IIFPT), Thanjavur

## Important observations and recommendations of the Committee

### Composition of the Board of Governors:

- The Bill provides for a Board of Governors, which will be the principal executive body of the institute. The Chairperson of the Board will be a distinguished person in the field of food science or technology, management, or public administration. **The Committee observed that since food processing is a specialized field, the Chairperson should have practical experience in the industry or academia.**
- It recommended that the **provision appointing public administrators as Chairperson of the Board should be removed.** This would help de-bureaucratize the working of the institute and adopt industry-friendly policies.
- **It also recommended the inclusion of a Member of**

## **Parliament in the Board similar to the Institutes of Technology Act, 1961.**

### **The maximum limit on fee for technical courses:**

- The National Fee Committee under the All India Council for Technical Education fixes the maximum tuition and development fee for professional courses.
- The Committee noted that NIFTEM, Kundli is charging a higher fee for certain programmes as compared to the maximum fee recommended by the National Fee Committee.
- It recommended that the central government should form a high-level Committee to analyze the extent of the excess fee charged by the institute till date and take corrective measures.
- The fee for existing courses should be capped from the current academic session. **It also recommended the introduction of a new provision in the Bill to cap the fee for various courses in NIFTEMs at a reasonable level.**

### **Tuition fee waiver scheme:**

- The AICTE provides for a tuition fee waiver scheme for women and economically backward classes for courses in technical institutions.
- The Committee noted that NIFTEM Kundli and IIFPT Thanjavur were not providing this fee waiver as required under AICTE Rules.
- It recommended the central government to ensure **the implementation of tuition fee waiver scheme for economically weaker sections.**
- The Committee also **recommended the central government to start a full fee waiver scheme in these institutes for students belonging to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes**, and divyang students.