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Lok Sabha passes Bill on homoeopathy council

Law gives more time to rejig body

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Lok Sabha on Thursday passed the Homoeopathy Central Council (Amendment) Bill, 2019, which enables the government to extend the tenure of the Board of Governors for a further period of one year with effect from May 17, 2019.

This is the second Bill passed by the newly constituted Lok Sabha and will replace an ordinance issued by the previous NDA government.

Urging the government to re-examine the proposed legislation, the Congress's leader of the House Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury sought to move a statutory resolution that was defeated by a voice vote. Another Opposition MP, N.K. Premachandran of the RSP, also unsuccessfully proposed amendments to the Bill.

The Opposition lashed out at the government for

the second day in a row for taking the ordinance route.

"Ordinance should not be used for ordinary rule," Mr. Chowdhury said. "It is not good for the health of the democracy. The Minister has so far been unable to tell us about the urgency to bring in an ordinance. The fact is that the government is bringing in ordinance after ordinance, which is against the spirit of democracy. The House can't be used as a rubber stamp to pass ordinance after ordinance," the Congress MP added.

Replying to the Opposition, AYUSH Minister Shripad Naik said the day-to-day affairs of the Central Homoeopathy Council (CHC) had been entrusted with a Board of Governors comprising eminent and qualified homoeopathy doctors and eminent administrators till such time that the council was reconstituted.