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RS clears NMC bill amid doctors' stir

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New Delhi: The Rajya Sabha on Thursday passed the National Medical Commission (NMC) Bill which aims to reform medical education sector plagued by corruption and malpractices, regulate cost of private medical education and increase the number of medical colleges. The bill also seeks to ease the burden of entrance exams for students and cre-

ate a mid-level health cadre with limited rights to prescribe drugs. Though Lok Sabha had passed the bill on July 29, it will have to reapprove the legislation because the government introduced minor changes, which have been passed by the Upper House.

It was passed on a day when doctors are on a countrywide strike against the proposed legislation. The bill, which seeks to re-

peal the Indian Medical Council Act 1956, was approved by a voice vote in the Upper House amid a walkout by AIADMK. The key provisions of the bill include a new medical education regulator — National Medical Commission (NMC) — which will replace the Medical Council of India, introduction of final year MBBS exam as an National Exit Test.

Full report: www.toi.in