Concerns with the NMC Bill

What is the issue?

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Brought as a measure of overhauling the medical regulatory system, the National Medical Commission Bill has some serious shortfalls.

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What are the problems with health care system?

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- The Bill comes as a recognition that self-regulation under the Medical Commission India has failed the medical profession on many counts.
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- Medical education is prohibitively expensive, scarce and its syllabi so inadequate.
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- Inevitably, the process of regulation in a situation of a serious shortage of medical colleges has been riddled with corruption.
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- There is a worrying shortage of doctors and health care professionals in the country, especially in remote regions.
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What are the shortfalls in the bill?

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- There are genuine worries on how effective the Bill could address the corruption-ridden health care system.
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- The elaborate structure under the NMC Bill distributes powers more widely and has checks and balances.
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- However, experience has shown that government appointments to regulatory roles do not necessarily imply better regulation.

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- The cronyism in appointments that afflicts regulatory bodies could render insignificant the purpose of rooting out corruption.
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- Also, the NMC’s power to effect deep-rooted change remains in doubt because of its umbrella status.
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- There is a possibility of abdication of responsibility by the states in setting up medical councils in their jurisdictions within three years.
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- More importantly, the clause on bridge course fails to acknowledge the fundamental differing principles that traditional and modern medical systems follow.
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Source: Business Standard

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