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NATIONAL

Euthanasia

The “Management of Patients with Terminal Illness-Withdrawal of Medical Life Support Bill” states that all super-speciality hospitals should have approval committees on passive euthanasia

- The panels will decide on applications of 'living will', a written document that allows patients to explicitly state their desire against life-prolonging measures when recovery is not possible from a terminal condition.
- The bill also calls for imprisonment of 5-10 years and a fine of Rs 20 lakh to Rs 1 crore in case of misrepresentation of facts or placing forged documents before the approval committees.

The redrafted bill did not encourage active euthanasia, the bill only support passive euthanasia.

- Passive euthanasia involves giving the right to patients to withhold medical treatment or life support system in the face of an irreversible terminal illness, while active euthanasia is the acceleration of death using injections or overdose of drugs.
- The redrafted bill terms death from passive euthanasia a 'natural death'. It also has provisions for the protection of competent patients (those who can take decisions on their future treatment), medical practitioners and care givers, who will not be considered guilty for the act of passive euthanasia.

The bill provided for palliative care which meant while the medication or medical care would be withdrawn, the family or the hospital staff would continue to take care of the patients in terms of providing nursing care to give relief from pain, physical stress and maintaining cleanliness among others.

More info flow must for defence ties: USIBC official

According to a senior official in the US-India Business Council (USIBC) U.S. defence companies will not be able to partner with the Indian private sector under the ambitious Strategic Partnership (SP) policy, unless New Delhi concludes an agreement for sharing classified information.

- India and the U.S. have the General Security of Military Information Agreement (GSOMIA), which was signed years ago and allows sharing of classified information from the U.S. government and American companies with the Indian government and defence public sector undertakings (DPSUs) but not with Indian private companies.

To ensure Indian private companies are on a level playing field with the DPSUs, an annexe should be established allowing information transfer to Indian private companies.