

Seventeenth Loksabha

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Title: Regarding granting of special exemption to pursue all courses in private collages in India or in other countries to students who returned from Ukraine.

**SHRI RAJMOHAN UNNITHAN (KASARAGOD):** Mr. Chairman, Sir, while we are rightly focussing on saving lives in Ukraine, I would like to take this opportunity to remind about the living. The incidents that unfolded in Ukraine on 24<sup>th</sup> February, 2022 have left the whole world dumbstruck.

The crisis is one that Indians cannot ignore, owing to the sizeable population of Indians who live in Ukraine. According to the data tabled by the Ministry of External Affairs in 2021, India had over 18,000 students enrolled in various universities in Ukraine. Almost a quarter of international students in Ukraine are Indians, more than the students of Russia and France.

The Government of India claimed that over 15,920 Indian nationals have been brought back to India on 76 flights under the evacuation mission "Operation Ganga". However, more than 1,000 students, mostly Keralites, are still trapped in Sumy. They are waging a grim battle for survival with supplies depleting fast and exit routes to safety blocked by fierce fighting.

So, I request the hon. Minister of External Affairs Minister to take necessary and quick steps to bring back the Keralite students stranded in Sumy. As we all know, their life is at stake in Ukraine.

It is also a fact that thousands of Indian students returning from war-torn Ukraine are facing the issue of rehabilitation. The course of events in Ukraine has dashed their hopes and dreams. It is difficult to predict how long it will take for things to return to normalcy in the country and how long it will take for the stranded students at various stages of education to complete their education.

So, I request the Government of India to let the Indian students from Ukraine complete their MBBS and pursue other streams in Indian universities. If they are accommodated in Indian colleges, their careers will not be jeopardised. If not, their future will be in peril.

Re:Increase of wage ceiling for employees being covered under ESI Scheme

