

Seventeenth Loksabha

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Title: Regarding Plight of Ukraine returnee medical students.-Laid

DR. SHASHI THAROOR (THIRUVANANTHAPURAM): I wish to draw the attention of the Honourable Minister of Health and Family Welfare towards the plight of Indian medical students, many belonging to my home state of Kerala, whose education has been interrupted due to the ongoing war in Ukraine. In March 2022, the Russian invasion of Ukraine forced over 18,000 Indian students, primarily pursuing medicine, to flee the country. The high cost of private medical education in our country and elsewhere has made resumption of study difficult for most of these students who hail from humble backgrounds. It is, therefore, essential to identify alternate means through which these students can complete their medical education, either in neighbouring European countries or through arrangements in India (as in Egypt where students can take evaluation exams to join medical colleges in that country). The State Government of West Bengal, too, has admitted around 422 state-domiciled students, who were studying in Ukraine, to its private and government colleges. I, therefore, urge the Minister to devise and implement constructive measures to address the pressing concerns of our students, at the earliest, in the interest of their future and that of the health of the people of our country.