

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3581

ANSWERED ON:22.12.2004

HARROWING TIME FOR MEDICINE STUDENTS IN RUSSIA

Harsha Kumar Shri G.V.

**Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:**

(a) whether the Government is aware that the students who went to study medicine in Russia have faced a harrowing time as reported in the Hindu dated November 2, 2004 ;

(b) if so, the facts of the matter reported therein; and

(c) the remedial measures being taken by the Government to prevent these incidents in future?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE ( SMT. PANABAKA LAKSHMI)

(a) to (c): As per information received from the Ministry of External Affairs, the incident referred to in the news item relates to three students from Tamilnadu who had gone to join the medical course at the St.Petersburg Mechnikov State Medical Academy but returned complaining of overcharging and harassment by the contractors. These students, however, did not approach the Indian Embassy/Consulate or the Mission abroad for help and also did not make any complaint in this regard. Therefore, it has not been possible for the Indian Embassy to verify the facts contained in the newspaper report. The Government has neither authorized any agent to recruit students for studies abroad nor has it been sponsoring any students in this regard. In the present case the affected students had gone abroad for studies on their own through private contractors.