

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:30

ANSWERED ON:24.02.2010

ATTACKS ON INDIANS IN FOREIGN COUNTRIES

Gangaram Shri Awale Jaywant;Raghavan Shri M. K.

Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether attacks on Indian students in Australia and other countries are on the rise;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, including loss of lives and property suffered, for the last two years till date, country-wise and year-wise;
- (c) whether the Government of Australia has acknowledged that the attacks on Indians are racial;
- (d) if so, the reaction of the Government of India thereto;
- (e) whether the efforts made so far in this regard have not produced desired results; and
- (f) if so, the details of the action plan of the Government to ensure safety and security of Indians and their property abroad and to render financial and legal assistance to the victims of such attacks?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI S. M. KRISHNA)

- (a) to (f): A statement is placed on the Table of the House.

Statement referred to in reply to Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 30 for answer on 24th February, 2010

(a) Though there was a spurt in the number of incidents of attacks on Indian nationals, including students in Australia, in the month of January 2010, after a gap of over six months, there does not appear to be any evidence to indicate a consistent rise in the recent past of such incidents either in Australia or other countries.

(b) Details of attacks on Indian nationals including students for the last two years, as available in the Ministry are given in the statement attached at Annexure I.

(c) Though there has been no such acknowledgement from the Government of Australia, it has been conceded that some of these attacks could have racial overtones.

(d) The Government of India has reiterated that it is the responsibility of the Government of Australia to ensure that such attacks cease forthwith.

(e) & (f) Government of India is deeply concerned about the plight of Indian national, including students in Australia. The issue of attacks on Indian students in Australia has been taken up at the highest level, with the Government of Australia, emphasizing that such attacks should not be allowed to recur and that it is the responsibility of the Australian authorities to ensure the well-being and security of our students in Australia. The Prime Minister of India conveyed the high priority that Government of India attaches to the safety, security and well-being of the Indian community in Australia, to the Prime Minister of Australia, Mr. Kevin Rudd, during his visit to India on 12 November, 2009. Mr. Rudd had reiterated that Australia had a zero tolerance to violence and was committed to taking all possible measures to protect the safety and welfare of all international students, including Indian students. The Indian Mission and Posts are pro actively following up these incidents very closely and are in constant touch with the Federal and State Governments at all levels. The Indian Mission/Posts also maintain regular liaison with the students in universities and other educational institutions, inter-alia, through participation in the meetings and seminars organised by the local government and law enforcement authorities, as well as the Indian community. Guidelines for students who propose to study in Australia, as also those already studying there, are posted on the websites of the Ministries of Overseas Indian Affairs, External Affairs as well as those of the Indian Mission/Posts in Australia. At the instance of the Government of India, the Government of Australia have taken several important measures aimed at enhancing the safety and security of our students, both at the State as well as the Federal level, which have been useful. Details are attached at Annexure-II.