

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2210

ANSWERED ON:10.03.2010

ATTACKS ON INDIANS

Jagannath Dr. M.;Karunakaran Shri P.;Kumar Shri Kaushalendra;Singh Shri Radha Mohan

**Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the Government proposes to raise the issue of attacks on Indians at international forum for the failure of the Australian Government to address the issue;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether an Australian official has suggested that ``Indians should look poor`` to avoid racial attacks as reported in the media; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Indian Government thereto?

**Answer**

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

(a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) & (d) The remark was made by Mr. Simon Overland, Chief Commissioner of Police of the State of Victoria at a meeting to address the Safety Concerns of International Students, especially female students, which had been organized on 5th Feb. 2010 at the initiative of Victorian Immigration and Refugee Women's Coalition(VIRWC) where Mr. Overland was the Chief Speaker and at the end of the exhaustive explanation of what the situation is, on the ground, for international students and all that the police have done so far to improve the situation, what ended with some tips for students on safety, including "looking poor". The remark was made in a lighter vein and the audience took it as such, greeting the comments with laughter. An Officer of the Consulate General of India at Melbourne was present at the meeting. This was also reported by newspaper 'The Age'.