

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1015

ANSWERED ON:03.03.2010

. SAFETY OF INDIANS IN AUSTRALIA

Dubey Shri Nishikant ;Gaddigoudar Shri P.C.;Mani Shri Jose K.;Reddy Shri Magunta Srinivasulu

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes to sign agreements with Australia and other countries to protect the immigrant Indian workers/students in these countries;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether these countries provide personal safety to the Indian students;
- (d) if so, the details thereof including the action taken against the persons found guilty in the attacks on the Indian workers/ students;
- (e) whether any Committee has been formed to look into and solve the problems of arising out the attacks on the Indians abroad; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI)

- (a): This Ministry has signed Memorandum of Understanding with some of the countries in the Gulf for protection as well as welfare of Overseas Indian workers.
- (b): There is no proposal to sign such an agreement with Australia for protection of Indian workers/students.
- (c) & (d): Indian nationals including students living aboard are governed by the laws of the host countries. In the case of incidents of attacks on Indian nationals 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. Over 54 arrests have been made and sentences have been handed down by the Australian authorities. Investigations are continuing and more arrests are expected to be made.
- (e) & (f): A Joint Working Group (JWG) with Australia on student mobility has been constituted with a view to consider regulation of employment agents and organize pre-departure orientation programme and make appropriate recommendations to the Government. The JWG held its first meeting on 6th October, 2009.