

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6441

ANSWERED ON:05.05.2010

ATTACKS ON INDIANS IN AUSTRALIA

Acharia Shri Basudeb;Mohan Shri Malik Sakti;Roy Shri Mahendra Kumar

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

- (a) the role played by the Indian Embassy to save Indians in Australia;
- (b) whether the Government has raised the issue with Australian diplomat to take steps to stop the attacks on Indians in Australia; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the response of the Australian diplomat thereto?

**Answer**

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

(a): The Indian Mission/Posts in Australia regularly take up the incidents of assaults on members of Indian community including students, with the Australian authorities, at federal and state levels. The High Commissioner has repeatedly taken up the matter with the concerned Ministers and senior officers in the Government, seeking their assistance in addressing the issue, with a view to prevent the recurrence of such incidents and had several meetings with them in 2009 and 2010. These include the concerned Ministers at the federal level and Premiers of several states (NSW, Victoria, Queensland, etc..) as well as senior officials.

The High Commissioner and the Consuls General in Sydney and Melbourne have regular interaction with Indian community in various cities and have visited several Universities and private colleges in all the major cities in Australia. They have had discussions with students on the issues faced by them. The students are encouraged to report any incidents in order to enable the High Commission and Consulates to provide any assistance required.

The High Commission and Consulates are also in regular discussions with students, major education providers on their orientation programmes for Indian students, as also with the Indian Community and Associations, so that they too may be closely involved in the interactions with the student community and in making them feel welcome.

The High Commission in Australia and the Consulates General in Melbourne and Sydney each have a Community Welfare and Student Liaison Officer (CWSLO) who is on call 24 x 7, and whose mobile number is on their respective websites as the emergency response number. Any problem involving an Indian student or member of the community is handled by the CWSLO, in coordination with the High Commissioner/Consuls General. There is also a policy of "Open Fridays", when any student can walk into the Chancery without an appointment and meet the concerned officer to discuss any problems.

(b): The issue of attacks on Indian students in Australia has been taken up at the highest level. 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.

(c): At the instance of the Government of India, the Government of Australia has 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.