

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:28
ANSWERED ON:23.02.2011
RADIO COLLARING OF INDIAN STUDENTS
Rani Killi Krupa;Tewari Shri Manish

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a large number of Indian students of the Tri Valley University in California, USA were radio collared inhumanly to monitor their movements after confiscating their passports;
- (b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the break-up of such students with State from which they originate;
- (c) whether the Government has raised this matter with US authorities;
- (d) if so, the outcome thereof;
- (e) the manner in which the Indian Government/Indian Embassy in USA is assisting them legally and otherwise in USA; and
- (f) the measures taken by the Government to avoid recurrence of such incidents in future?

Answer

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

(a) & (b) Approximately 1500 Indian students were enrolled at the Tri Valley University in California, which was closed by the United States Government on 19 January 2011 for alleged fraudulent practices. A number of Indian students were questioned and 18 of them, facing investigation in case, were initially detained and then released with radio monitoring devices on their ankles. A vast majority of the students enrolled at the TVU were from the State of Andhra Pradesh.

(c) The Government has repeatedly raised with the U.S. Government, including during the recent visits of External Affairs Minister and the Foreign Secretary, its strong concerns about radio tagging, welfare of the students and their academic future in the United States.

(d) The United States Government has begun progressively removing radio collars from 18 students and has conveyed that it would seek to provide innocent students an adequate opportunity to transfer to other universities, adjust their status or, otherwise, leave the country honourably.

(e) Our Mission and Posts in the United States are regularly meeting students and providing appropriate guidance and advisories. A free legal aid camp for the affected students was also organized in San Francisco.

(f) The Government expects the US Government to take steps to prevent such universities from being set up and exploiting foreign students. Government also hopes that Indian students will exercise due vigilance in applying to foreign universities.