

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:378

ANSWERED ON:23.02.2011

DUPING OF INDIAN STUDENTS

Antony Shri Anto;Bais Shri Ramesh;Bapurao Shri Khatgaonkar Patil Bhaskarrao;Gaikwad Shri Eknath Mahadeo;Ganeshamurthi Shri A.;Jeyadural Shri S. R.;Kataria Shri Lal Chand;Lagadapati Shri Rajagopal;Nahata Smt. P. Jaya Prada;Owaisi Shri Asaduddin;Pandurang Shri Munde Gopinathrao;Rajesh Shri M. B.;Reddy Shri Anantha Venkatarami;Shankar Alias Kushal Tiwari Shri Bhisma;Shekhar Shri Neeraj;Singh Shri Bhola;Singh Shri Radha Mohan;Singh Shri Radhey Mohan;Singh Shri Yashvir;Yadav Shri Om Prakash;Yaskhi Shri Madhu Goud

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

- (a) whether instances of educational agents misleading large number of Indian students in securing admissions in fake universities abroad, particularly Tri-Valley University, California have been brought to the notice of the Government;
- (b) if so, the details thereof including the students affected, State-wise;
- (c) the allegations made against the Indian students by the US Government;
- (d) the reaction of the Union Government in this regard;
- (e) the assistance provided by the Government to those students who hold valid visas; and
- (f) the measures taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to stop the recurrence of such incidents and also make it mandatory for the educational agents to register with the Government?

Answer

MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI)

- (a) No information about educational agents has come to our notice so far.
- (b) According to US immigration & Customs Enforcement (ICE) the Tri-Valley University had enrolled 1550 students over the last two years. All the students of this University are foreign nationals, mostly from India. Most of the affected Indian students are those who have taken internal transfer from other Universities to the Tri-Valley University. Others transferred from other visa status.
- (c) The US Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) is currently probing the visa violation against some of the Indian students. Simultaneously directors/owners of Tri-Valley University are also being investigated.
- (d) The Hon'ble Minister of External Affairs have spoken to US Secretary of State, Ms. Hillary Clinton on February 13, 2011 and raised the plight of Indian students at Tri-Valley University. The Hon'ble Minister suggested to intervene in protecting the interest of the students and their futures and also suggesting the possibility of students being absorbed in other US Universities. Foreign Secretary also took up the matter with her counterpart about Indian students of Tri-Valley University. Apart from these Indian Ambassador in US and other officials of Indian Embassy and Consulates have taken up the issue with their counterparts.
- (e) The matter has been taken up with the US Department of Homeland Security (DHS), Department of Justice (DoJ), and Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) requesting them that Indian students may be treated as the victims of fraud and not criminals and also permitted to apply to other US Universities. Officials in the Embassy and the Consulates General at San Francisco and New York met the students and counseled them and briefed them about the effort being made by them in this regard. Consulate General at San Francisco has held a free legal-aid camp for 140 Tri-Valley University students of Feb, 5, 2011.
- (f) A new Emigration Management Bill-2010 is to be introduced in the Parliament which envisages regulation of enrolment agencies with a view to lay down standards for the services provided by them and monitor their compliance to the standards. Under the proposed bill, the enrolment agencies in the business of enrolment of citizens of India for studying at foreign educational institutions or providing consulting services for such enrolment will have to register with proposed Emigration Management Authority in same manner as recruiting agencies with appropriate adaptations and modifications.