

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:299
ANSWERED ON:23.02.2011
STATUS OF TRI VALLEY UNIVERSITY
Pal Shri Jagdambika

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the status of Tri-Valley University in USA;
- (b) whether such university had legitimate credentials as per the local laws;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the Government had received any complaints regarding the role of fraudulent agencies/agents in arranging admission of Indian students in such university;
- (e) if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) the action taken or proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (Dr. D. PURANDESWARI)

(a)to(c): The Tri Valley University, Boulder Court, Pleasanton, CA, was shut down on January 19, 2011 by US Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) on charges of immigration fraud. In a complaint for forfeiture of Tri Valley University (TVU) properties filed on January 19,2011 at the US District Court in Northern District of California, US authorities have mentioned that since its inception TVU has been a "sham University" which its owners have used to facilitate foreign nationals in illegally acquiring student immigration status that authorises them to remain in the USA. The University was recognized for grant of I-20s to foreign students since 2009. Authorization to issue I-20s to foreign students was as per the requirements of the federal authorities. However, the Tri-Valley University (TVU) was not accredited by the California Department of Consumer Affairs, Bureau of Private and Post Secondary Education. This agency is responsible for accreditation/recognition of educational institutions in California, which allows credits to be transferred to other States/universities. TVU was, however, recognized by the Federal government for issuing I-20s till 10 January, 2011 and also they were given authorization to issue limited work permit (Curricular Professional Training - CPT) by the same federal agency, Department of Homeland Security (DHS).

(d): No, Sir.

(e): Does not arise.

(f): The Embassy of India, Washington DC and the Consulates General in San Francisco and New York have taken up the matter with the US State Department, Department of Homeland Security (DHS), Department of Justice (DOJ) and ICE requesting them that the Indian students be treated as victims of the fraud and permitted to apply to other US universities. Indian Ambassador in USA has spoken to the Director, ICE and expressed concern about the victimization of the students, including those who have been made to wear Radio Tags. Other official from the Embassy have also spoken to their counterparts in these organizations. Ambassador has also personally taken up the matter at the highest level in the Department of State. Officials in the Embassy and the Consulates General at San Francisco and New York have met groups of students to listen to their problems and advise them. Consulate General of India in San Francisco also held a free legal aid camp for about 140 TVU students on February 5, 2011. The Hon'ble Minister of External Affairs, Government of India has spoken to US Secretary of State on February 13, 2011 and raised the plight of the Indian students of the Tri-Valley University. The Hon'ble Minister requested US Secretary of State to intervene in protecting the interests of the students and their futures and also suggesting the possibility of the students being absorbed in other US universities. Following this conversation, the Ambassador of India, on February 14, 2011 conveyed to the Secretary of State the details regarding the issue of the students. Foreign Secretary, who was visiting the United States on an official visit, also took up the matter with her counterparts. Deputy Chief of Mission of Indian Embassy at Washington met the officials of the US Immigration and Customs Enforcement on February 16, 2011 reiterating that the Indian students be treated as victims of the fraud and not criminals.