

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1656

ANSWERED ON:10.08.2011

ATTACKS ON INDIAN STUDENTS

Bajirao Shri Patil Padamsinha ;Bhagat Shri Sudarshan;Hussain Shri Syed Shahnawaz;Lal Shri Kirodi ;M.Thambidurai Dr.
;Mahendrasinh Shri Chauhan ;Singh Shri Ijyaraj ;Vinay Kumar Alias Vinnu Shri

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

- (a) whether a large number of incidents of attacks on Indian students in various countries particularly in Australia and New Zealand have been reported in the recent past;
- (b) if so, the details thereof including the number of such incidents that have been reported during the last three years and the current year, country-wise and the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Government has any proposal to set up Indo-Australia Education Council to facilitate security and welfare measures for students of both the countries;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the details of the action plan of the Government to ensure safety and security of Indian students studying abroad?

Answer

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

(a) & (b):. The following number of cases of attacks on Indian students and members of the Indian community in Australia have come to the notice of the High Commission of India at Australia during the last three years and the current year:

Year	2008	2009	2010	Jan - July, 2011
No.of cases	11	50	103	15

However, High Commission has also stated that the Australian authorities do not register cases based on ethnicity of the victims. No incident of attack on Indian students has been reported by the High Commission of India at New Zealand.

(c)&(d): Yes, Sir. The India-Australia Education Council has been set up to bring together government, academia, business and industry of both the countries to enhance bilateral collaboration in the education sector. The inaugural meeting of the Council was held on 1.8.2011 at New Delhi. Before meeting of the Council, a high level dialogue between the two ministers was held in which the Indian side had raised the issue of safety and well being of students.

(e): The issue of attacks on Indian students in Australia has been taken up at the highest level by Government of India, including at the Ministerial level as well as through the High Commission of India and its Consulates in Australia. It has been conveyed to the Australian Government that it was the responsibility of the Australian authorities to ensure the well being and security of all Indians in Australia. The High Commission in Australia remain in regular touch with the Australian authorities both at the federal and the state level. This has resulted in several measures being put in place on the ground to improve safety and security. The steps taken by the Australian authorities have been useful, as reflected in the substantial decrease in the number of attacks on Indian community including students in recent months.