

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3638

ANSWERED ON:24.08.2011

FOREIGN UNIVERSITIES DUPING INDIAN STUDENTS

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

- (a) whether instances of several Indian students being duped by some unaccredited foreign universities including University of Northern Virginia in USA have been reported;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the present status of University of Northern Virginia;
- (c) the number of Indian students affected by such Universities, State-wise;
- (d) whether the Government of India and US authorities are working in coordination to tackle this situation including the measures to transfer the students to other Universities;
- (e) if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) the corrective steps taken by the Government to provide relief to the students duped by fraudulent universities abroad and to protect their interests?

Answer

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

(a) to (f): Till now, two cases of foreign universities involved in frauds in respect of student visa etc. have been reported in the United States of America. The first case was of Tri-Valley University in California, which was shut down in January 2011 by the US authorities and more than 1800 Indian students were affected by the fraud. The second case is of University of Northern Virginia where action against the University authorities was started on July 28, 2011. There are about 2000 Indian students enrolled in that University but State-wise break-up of students is not available. In the case of Tri-Valley University, the Government has intervened through diplomatic and political channels to ensure the safety of the Indian students. The Government, through the Embassy of India had requested the US authorities to treat Indian students as victims of fraud and has also been offering counsel to the affected students. The matter was also taken up by the Minister of External Affairs with the US Secretary of State during their meeting on February 13, 2011 and also during the recent India-US Strategic Dialogue on July 19, 2011 in New Delhi. In regard to the action of the US authorities against University of North Virginia, Government has not received any report of inhuman treatment of students.