

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2164

ANSWERED ON:07.12.2011

FAKE FOREIGN UNIVERSITIES AND AGENTS

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that international students mobility is a big business now a days;
- (b) if so, whether instances of several Indian students being cheated/duped by fake universities and agents being run in the United States of America and other countries have come to the notice of the Government;
- (c) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;
- (d) the number of such cases reported during each of the last three years and the current year, country-wise;
- (e) whether several Indian students at the Tri Valley University were radio tagged by the US authorities;
- (f) if so, the action taken by the Government thereon; and
- (g) the corrective steps taken by the Government to provide relief to the students cheated by these fake universities and agents abroad and to protect their interests?

Answer

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

(a) to (e): Several mechanisms are available in India and abroad, at the Government, quasi-Government and private sectors, to facilitate Indian students going abroad and foreign students coming to India for higher education. The United States authorities initiated investigations against two Universities, the Tri Valley University and the University of Northern Virginia, in year 2011 for violation of regulations related to foreign students. The data on State-wise breakup of students affected by investigation against these Universities is not available, though a vast majority of students in the Tri Valley University hailed from Andhra Pradesh.

The Tri Valley University, California was shut down in January 2011 on charges of immigration fraud. A number of Indian students enrolled at the Tri-Valley University were questioned and 18 of them, facing investigations into involvement in the case, were initially detained and released with radio monitoring devices on their ankles. The Government repeatedly raised with the U.S. Government its strong concerns about radio-tagging. It was conveyed to the U.S. authorities that the students, most of who are victims themselves, must be treated fairly and reasonably, and that the use of radio-monitors on a group of students is unwarranted and should be removed. The situation was rigorously monitored and controlled through diplomatic channels. The radio-monitors were progressively removed from Indian students after review of their cases by the U.S. authorities.

The U.S. authorities initiated action against the Northern Virginia University in July 2011. The University was served with a notice by the U.S. authorities seeking explanation for violation of rules by the institution. The Embassy of India in Washington was informed by the U.S. authorities on the issue. The University has not been shut down so far and there have been no arrests, detentions or radio-tagging of students.

(f) & (g): Government has taken up the issue of such Universities with the U.S. Government to protect the interests of the Indian students. The Government has strongly conveyed to the U.S. agencies that the students, themselves a victim of fraud, should not be penalized and held responsible for the violations committed by the University. Government has requested that there should be no mass termination of visas of the affected students, so that they do not go out of status, and the affected students should be given adequate time for transfer to other Universities; or voluntarily return to India, without prejudice. The Government has requested the U.S. Government to take steps to prevent recurrence of such instances.