GOVERNMENT OF INDIA HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:388
ANSWERED ON:14.03.2012
HARASSMENT AND ATTACKS ON INDIAN STUDENTS
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Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a number of incidents of harassment and attacks on Indian students in various countries particularly in Western countries have been reported in the recent past;
- (b) if so, the details of such cases reported during each of the last three years and the current year, year-wise, country-wise and incident-wise;
- (c) the number of Indian students killed/injured in such incidents;
- (d) the remedial measures taken by the Government to avoid recurrence of such incidents; and
- (e) the corrective steps taken by the Government to ensure the dignity and honour of Indian students pursuing higher education abroad?

Answer

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

- (a) to (c): There have been instances over the past three years wherein Indian students in Australia were attacked. The number of attacks on Indian students in Australia has shown a sharp decrease in 2011 as compared to previous two years. Though three incidents of attack on Indian students in UK have been reported during 2010-2012, there is nothing to suggest harassment and attack particularly aimed at Indian students. No incident of harassment and attack particularly aimed at Indian students has been reported from any other country.
- (d) & (e): The issue of attacks on Indians in Australia was taken up at the highest level by GOI, including at the Ministerial level as well as through the High Commission and its Consulates in Australia. Several measures have been put in place on the ground to improve safety and security by the Federal and State Governments in Australia like improving policing, interaction with students and providing information cards to students to seek emergency assistance whenever required. The steps taken by the Australian authorities have been useful, as reflected in the substantial decrease in the number of attacks in recent months.