

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3332
ANSWERED ON:31.08.2012
ASSISTANCE TO STUDENTS ABROAD
Gangaram Shri Awale Jaywant

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Indian High Commission in Australia has set up a 24 hours helpline in order to provide assistance to the Indian students studying in Australia;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the other steps being taken by the Government to ensure safety and security of Indians including students in foreign countries?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI PRENEET KAUR)

(a) & (b) Yes. The High Commission of India and the Consulates in Australia have 24 Hrs emergency contact numbers. These numbers have been given publicity through the Mission's website. The emergency numbers are:

For ACT, Queensland

Name & designation Mr. Mukesh Kumar, First Secretary(Head of Chancery/Consular)
Address High Commission of India, 3 Moonah Place, Yarralumla, ACT-2600
Tel 0432 585 493 - Mobile

For New South Wales and South Australia

Name & designation Mr Sashikant Meshram, Vice Consul (Consular)
Address Consulate General of India, Level 10, 190 George Street, Sydney, NSW 2000.
Tel 0420277261 - Mobile

For Victoria and Tasmania

Name & designation Mr. Rakesh V. Kawra, Consul (SCWO)
Address Consulate General of India, 344, St. Kilda Road, Melbourne, VIC - 3000.
Tel 0430 020 828 - Mobile

For Western Australia & Northern Territory

Name & designation Mr. Hira Lal Raichandani, Consul/Head of Chancery
Address Consulate General of India, Lots 70-74, Level 6 12 St. Georges Terrace
Perth WA 6000
Tel 0423 715 575 - Mobile

For Brisbane

Name & designation Mrs. Archana Singh, Honorary Consul

Address Honorary Consulate of India, 175 A, Swann Road, Taringa, QLD - 4068

Tel 0422 309 952 - Mobile

(c) The Government of India is concerned about the safety and security of Indian nationals, including students, in foreign countries. Whenever Government of India is made aware of incidents of a nature affecting the security of Indian nationals, including students, in foreign countries, the matter is taken up strongly with the concerned Governments at all levels, including Ministerial and official. Indian Missions overseas maintain regular contact with the Governments of the countries of their accreditation to discuss and ensure the safety and security of Indian nationals, including students, in these countries.