

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4241  
ANSWERED ON:19.12.2012  
ASSISTANCE TO INDIAN STUDENTS  
Manjhi Shri Hari; Sayeed Muhammed Hamdulla A. B.

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware that the future of hundred of Indian students is in jeopardy after the London Metropolitan University (LMU) was stripped of its licence to admit international students;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps being taken by the Indian Government to assist the students?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT(DR. SHASHI THAROOR)

(a) to (c): Yes, Sir. The Government is aware that about 300 Indian students were affected when the London Metropolitan University's (LMU's) Highly Trusted Sponsorship Certificate with respect to non-EU international students was rescinded. Following this development, the High Commission of India in the UK had put out an advisory on the Mission's website asking Indian students to contact the High Commission for assistance. The High Commission of India also took up the matter with the Foreign & Commonwealth Office (FCO) urging the UK authorities to ensure an early resolution of the matter keeping in view the interests and future of Indian students.

Additionally, a team of officers from the High Commission of India met the Director of Immigration & Settlement, UKBA and the Vice Chancellor of London Metropolitan University soon after the news and conveyed unequivocally that the decision of UKBA had adverse implications for bona fide Indian students. The High Commission was assured in both the meetings that the interests and future of bona fide Indian students would be taken into consideration in resolving the matter.

London Metropolitan University had filed a court case against the decision of the UKBA to cancel their licence to recruit international students. The initial court ruling is in favour of LMU. However, there will be further hearings in the case and a final decision is awaited. In a later meeting on September 27, UKBA conveyed that, keeping in view the High Commission's serious concerns on behalf of bona fide Indian students, UKBA had approached the subject with meticulous care and had recommended in the task force meeting that genuine Indian students may be allowed to continue in LMU till the end of summer (June, 2013) or till the end of the course, whichever is earlier. As the final court decision is awaited, the affected students have also been given the option to re-locate to another university and a 'clearing house' has been set up for this purpose to help students.