GOVERNMENT OF INDIA HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3804
ANSWERED ON:20.03.2013
ATTACKS ON INDIAN STUDENTS
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Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Indian students studying in various foreign countries including Australia are being attacked and victimised;
- (b) if so, the details thereof during the last three years and the current year, country-wise;
- (c) whether the Government has received any complaints from parents/families of students studying abroad regarding atrocities committed on them on the pretext of colour/race and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the Government has reviewed the safety of these students and if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether the Government has taken up the issue with the concerned countries and if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) the steps taken by the Government to ensure safety and security of the Indian students studying abroad?

Answer

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

- (a) & (b) During 2010-12, three incidents of attack on Indian students (one incident each year) from UK and four such incidents from USA have been reported. In Australia 50 (in 2009), 103 (in 2010) and 15 (in 2011) cases of attacks on Indian students and members of Indian Community came to the notice of the High Commission of India in Australia during the last three years. However, the number of such cases has shown a sharp decline after 2011 in Australia. No incident of attack particularly aimed at Indian students has been reported from any other country.
- (c) No, Madam.
- (d) to (f) Whenever any attacks on Indian nationals are reported, the concerned Indian Mission/Post promptly takes up the matter with the local Foreign Ministry and other concerned authorities to ensure the safety of Indian nationals so that such incidents of violence against the Indian nationals do not recur. Follow-up action, including provision of consular assistance to the affected Indian nationals, including Indian students, is also performed by the Mission/Post. When approached, the host Government normally provides all necessary assistance and required security to the Indian nationals, including Indian students, living in that country. Cases of violence are duly investigated by the local police authorities in order to bring the culprits to justice. The Indian Mission /Post liaises with the concerned authorities during the investigation and trial of culprits. Recently, all Indian Missions/Posts abroad have appointed Student Welfare Officers to look after the interests of Indian Students.