

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1130

ANSWERED ON:25.11.2009

ATTACKS ON INDIANS IN FOREIGN COUNTRIES

Anuragi Shri Ghansyam ;Balram Shri P.;Dashmuni Deepa ;Jaiswal Shri Gorakh Prasad ;Maadam Shri Vikrambhai Arjanbhai;Rao Shri Sambasiva Rayapati;Reddy Shri Anantha Venkatarami;Sidhu Shri Navjot Singh;Vasava Shri Mansukhbhai D.

Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether attacks on Indian studying and working abroad particularly in Australia and Canada are still taking place ;
- (b) if so, the country-wise details thereof for the last three years and the current year, year-wise ;
- (c) the reasons for the said attacks;
- (d) whether the Government of India has taken up the matter with the Governments of the respective countries;
- (e) if so, the outcome thereof; and
- (f) the steps taken by the Government to protect the Indians including students and ensure their safety and security abroad particularly in Australia ?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI)

(a) to (c) A few cases of attacks on Indians studying and working in Australia have been reported. However, no incident has been reported from Canada. The motive for such attacks are reported as robbery, rivalry and racial element, in some cases. Available information on such incidents during the last three years is attached as Annexure.

(d) to (f) Yes, Sir. The Indian Missions/Posts abroad have taken up the issue of attacks on Indians with the local Governments in Australia and other countries whenever any incident was brought to their notice. In respect of cases from Australia, the matter has been taken up with the Australian Government at the highest level. As a result of a series of discussions with visiting high level Australian delegations and demarches made by Indian Mission/Posts in Australia, the Australian Government has taken various steps. They have announced a series of measures, including stricter policing in Victoria and NSW, aimed at ensuring the safety and security of Indian students in Australia. The Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Education, Ms. Julia Gillard introduced in the Parliament, an Amendment Bill to the ESOS Act, 2000, under which all educational institutions will be required to re-register under new and tighter criteria by 31 December, 2010. Similarly rapid audit of service providers is being undertaken by the Australian authorities, as a result of which some colleges have already been de-registered and shut down. These steps have been useful and the incidence of attacks has decreased.

To address the problems faced by Indian students in Australia and to recommend measures for enhancing their safety and wellbeing, the Government has set up a Joint Working Group (JWG) with the Australian side on student mobility. The JWG held its first meeting on 6th October, 2009.

Detailed advisory for Indian students who plan to study in Australia has been placed on the websites of MEA, MOIA and the Indian Mission and Consulates in Australia. Advisory to students who wish to study in certain other countries, have been placed on the website of MOIA.