

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:975

ANSWERED ON:25.11.2009

INDIAN STUDENTS CHEATED BY AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTES

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

- (a) whether Indian students pursuing study in Australia are being cheated by the bogus institutions in that country ;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government have taken up the matter with the Australian authorities;
- (d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reaction of the Australian authorities thereto;and
- (e) the effective steps taken/being taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

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

(a) to (e) No such incidents have been brought to the notice of the Government. However, the Government of Australia has de-registered and shut down some educational institutions causing some dislocation of Indian students studying in such institutions. The Australian Government has assured that the students affected by the closure of colleges will be provided replacement in another institution so as to minimize the effect of dislocation.

The Indian High Commission and the Consulates in Australia are in touch with the Australian Government. The issue of Indian students have been taken up with the Australian Government at the highest level by the Government.

To address the problems faced by Indian students in Australia and 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 MOIA, MEA and Indian Mission and Consulates in Australia.

The Mission in Canberra has also informed that 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.