

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:522

ANSWERED ON:07.08.2013

VISA NORMS FOR INDIAN STUDENTS

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

- (a) whether France has announced a slew of India-specific measures easing visa norms for the Indian students to pursue higher studies;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the steps/measures taken/being taken by the Indian Government in response thereto;
- (c) whether the inflow of Indian and French students to the respective countries is likely to increase as a result of easing visa norms; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof ?

**Answer**

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

(a) and (b): The Government of France has reportedly announced the following India-specific measures regarding visa norms for Indian students to enable them pursue higher studies in France more easily:

(i) All Indian citizens who have graduated from French Higher Educational institutions and are subsequently applying for a Business/tourist visa to France will be given a long term visa with a validity of up to five years, if the studies in France were at the Masters or the PhD level.

(ii) The French Embassy would be organizing a France-India job opportunities network to promote opportunities for those Indian students who have pursued higher education in France.

(iii) The French Embassy along with its corporate partners will award scholarships totalling Rs.7.1 crore to 235 meritorious Indian students who wish to pursue their higher education in France this year.

(iv) Campus France will establish partnerships with various Indian higher education institutions in order to accelerate the process for exchanges with the French institutions and for their alumni. The Government of India has also welcomed French students to study in India and student visas valid for their entire duration of studies are being issued by the Indian Mission in France. In 2012, 1825 student visa were issued by the Indian Mission for French students.

(c) and (d): It is expected that the above measures would enhance the student mobility between India and France.