

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2200  
ANSWERED ON:02.12.2009  
FOREIGN STUDENTS STUDYING IN INDIA  
Jindal Shri Naveen

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

- (a) the number of foreign students studying in the country at present, country-wise; and
- (b) the steps taken or being taken by the Government to attract more foreign students to study in the country?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT(SHRI KAPIL SIBAL)

(a) A statement indicating the country-wise number of existing foreign students studying in India, as furnished by Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) is given at annexure-I.

(b) According to the ICCR, the steps taken to attract more foreign students to study in India include creation of 175 additional slots during 2009-10 by the Ministry of External Affairs for Afghan nationals over and above the 500 slots initially offered to Afghanistan on an annual basis, offer of additional 251 slots to the African countries with effect from 2009-10 over an above the initial 247 slots, revision of Scholarship rates with effect from July, 2009 to make the scholarships more attractive, simplification of research visa procedure by the Ministry of Home Affairs and steps to be taken in pursuance of the recommendations of Inter-Ministerial Committee on Welfare of foreign students constituted on 22 April, 2008.

Besides, continuous steps are taken to upgrade the quality of Indian higher educational institutions and faculty. A substantial increase in Plan allocation has been made in the XI Plan for the expansion of higher education, for setting up of institutions such as Central Universities in uncovered States, establishment of Innovation universities aiming at world class standards, Indian Institutes of Technology, Indian Institutes of Management, Indian Institutes of Science Education and Research, Indian Institutes of Information Technology and Schools for Planning and Architecture. Expansion of capacity of the existing institutions, incentivizing State Governments for increasing State outlays on higher education, strengthening of science based research in universities, frequent updating of curricula, introduction of semester system, faculty improvement programme and other reforms are also being implemented in the XI Plan for improving the quality of higher educational institutions and faculty.