

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2090
ANSWERED ON:18.12.2013
FAKE FOREIGN UNIVERSITIES
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Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a large number of foreign universities have lured Indian students and later on these universities have been found to be fake;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the number of students who have been duped and the manner in which these students have been assisted by the Government of India;
- (c) whether the Government has any mechanism to verify the credentials of these foreign universities;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to protect Indian students from seeking admission in fake foreign universities?

Answer

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

- (a): Taking up higher studies by Indian students in foreign universities being a matter of individual will and choice, students seek admission in foreign universities based on the available information. A few incidents of foreign universities not following the norms set by the respective authorities affecting Indian students have come to the notice of the Government.
- (b): The cases reported so far are the Tri Valley University and the University of Northern Virginia of the U.S.A. and London Metropolitan University in United Kingdom. The only case of the University that was closed down was the Tri Valley University, California which was shut down in 2011 by the U.S. Authorities on charges of immigration fraud, where about 1800 Indian students were affected. The Government of India strongly took up the issue with the U.S. Authorities to protect the interest of Indian students and 1260 of them were helped to get transfer to other Universities in the U.S.
- (c) to (e): The Association of Indian Universities (AIU) provides phone-in assistance and also offers International documentation like the "International Handbook of Universities" brought out by International Association of Universities; "World list of Universities"; "Commonwealth Yearbook" and "Accredited Institutions of Post-Secondary Education" brought out by the American Council on Education (ACE), etc. to Indian students for reference on all working days to help them in assessing the accreditation status of a university.