

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4079
ANSWERED ON:19.02.2014
VEDIC PANDITS MISSING IN US
Ray Shri Saugata

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether 130 Indian Vedic Pandits went missing from the United States;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the US Government has any alleged role in this incident;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto; and
- (e) the steps being taken in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI PRENEET KAUR)

- (a) & (b) Government is aware of recent reports in the U.S. media suggesting that nearly 163 Vedic Pandits have gone missing from the Maharishi Vedic City and Maharishi University of Management situated at Iowa in the U.S. due to grueling conditions of employment.
- (c) & (d) Government is not aware of information suggesting any role of the U.S. Government in the disappearance of the Vedic Pandits.
- (e) The Consulate General of India in Chicago contacted the Maharishi University of Management on this issue immediately after the publication of the media reports. The Maharishi University of Management informed the Consulate that they had kept the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement apprised of all cases of absconding Vedic Pandits. The Maharishi University also conveyed that some of the missing Pandits were returning back to the University and will be sent back to India. The Consulate continues to pursue the matter with U.S. authorities and with the Maharishi University of Management.