

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3954  
ANSWERED ON:06.08.2014  
IMMIGRATION HEALTH SURCHARGE  
Sundaram Shri P.R.

**Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether Non-European Students including Indian students applying for visas for studying in United Kingdom (UK) need to pay additional money with their visa application fee as 'immigration health surcharge' from next year;
- (b) if so, the details thereof including the amount of fee to be charged and the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Government has taken up this issue with UK; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of UK on the issue?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS [GEN. (DR) V. K. SINGH (RETD)]

(a) & (b) The UK Immigration Act 2014 includes a provision for introduction of a health surcharge for temporary migrants, including students, who are non-EEA (European Economic Area) nationals, applying for a more than six months visa for UK. Full details of the scheme, including when the surcharge would come into effect, have not been formally declared. As per available information, the 'Immigration Health Surcharge' seeks to get the temporary migrants to make a contribution to the cost of health services in the UK through the National Health Service.

(c) & (d) Government of India has been in regular touch with the UK authorities to ensure that Indian students are neither discriminated against nor put to any disadvantage.

This issue has been raised at the appropriate level with the UK authorities. It has been informed that the surcharge, when enforced, would not discriminate against Indian students and that those who pay the surcharge would be able to access free NHS care to the same extent as a permanent resident, subject to some exceptions for particularly expensive discretionary treatments.