

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 32
ANSWERED ON 06.02.2025

MONITORING OF INDIAN STUDENTS ABROAD POST-CONFLICT ESCALATIONS

*32. DR. SYED NASEER HUSSAIN:

Will the Minister of External Affairs be pleased to state:

- (a) the total number of Indian students affected by ongoing conflicts in Israel, Palestine and Ukraine till date;
- (b) the specific measures taken to assist these students, including financial and academic aid; and
- (c) the manner in which Government is collaborating with foreign universities to ensure minimal academic disruption?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
(DR. SUBRAHMANYAM JAISHANKAR)

(a) to (c): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (A) TO (C) IN RESPECT OF RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 32 FOR REPLY ON 06.02.2025 REGARDING MONITORING OF INDIAN STUDENTS ABROAD POST-CONFLICT ESCALATIONS ASKED BY DR. SYED NASEER HUSSAIN.

The response to the question is as follows:

Ukraine:

There were 21,928 Indian students before the start of the conflict in Ukraine. However, as on November 01, 2024, only 1802 students were enrolled in various Ukrainian Universities.

During the initial stages of the conflict in Ukraine, keeping in view the deteriorating security situation in Ukraine, the Indian Embassy in Kyiv had issued travel and security advisories to the Indian students studying in Ukraine. After the start of the conflict, the Indian Government, through its Mission in Ukraine, had proactively supported distressed/ stranded Indian students. This support included active liaison with the Ukrainian Government and University authorities to arrange safe accommodation, facilitating their return under “Operation Ganga”, arrangements made for their movements in consultation with the neighbouring countries of Ukraine, and providing food, shelter and emergency medical care/medicine. A total of 18,282 Indian nationals including students were evacuated under Operation Ganga launched by the Government of India in February/March 2022. Subsequently, most of the students got themselves transferred from Ukrainian Universities to other countries viz., Kazakhstan, Georgia, Uzbekistan, Russia, Serbia, Bosnia, Poland, Hungary and Moldova.

Since the early days of the conflict, the Government of India has been in touch with the educational authorities in Ukraine regarding the continuation of studies by Indian students who returned from Ukraine. The Indian Mission in Ukraine has maintained constant touch with all concerned Ukrainian authorities, universities and student communities to resolve the issues faced by Indian students studying in Ukraine.

National Medical Commission (NMC) of India in September 2022 had clarified that it has no objection on permanent transfer of Indian medical students to universities in third countries in respect of medical students covered under Screening Test Regulations, 2002. It also permitted academic mobility to universities in specified third countries in respect of these students. NMC further clarified that medical students were allowed to undergo online classes of theory subjects which should be supplemented by offline practical and clinical training done in the Medical University and /or its affiliated Hospitals during their MBBS course.

Currently, the ground situation in Ukraine remains volatile for return of students. As a result, the number of students seeking admission in various Ukrainian Universities has come down sharply. Ukrainian side has also reiterated its willingness to allow Indian students to continue their courses online.

Israel:

There are around 900 Indian students in Israel, who are mostly enrolled in PhD or Post-doctoral studies in STEM fields. Following the 07 October 2023 attacks in Israel, Government of India launched *Operation Ajay* to facilitate safe return of Indian nationals under which 1309 Indians returned to India. This included 768 Indian students. Since then, almost all the Indian students who

had returned to India under *Operation Ajay*, have reached Israel, to resume their research/studies in the Israeli universities.

Embassy of India in Israel set up a 24-hour Control Room to monitor the situation and provide information and assistance to Indian nationals, including Indian students. In addition, 24-hour emergency helplines were also set up at the Embassy for extending assistance to all Indians, including Indian students, in Israel. Embassy has maintained constant touch with the nodal student coordinators and also with the International Student Departments of all the universities where Indian students are enrolled to ensure their well-being. Embassy has not received complaint about academic disruptions in Israeli universities.

Palestine::

There is no Indian student in Palestine.
