

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-2328**  
ANSWERED ON- 20.03.2025

**SAFEGUARDING INTERESTS OF INDIAN STUDENTS AND PROFESSIONALS  
ABROAD**

2328 SHRI K.R.N. RAJESHKUMAR:

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

- (a) the measures implemented to safeguard the interests of Indian students and professionals abroad, especially concerning visa regulations;
- (b) the details of the initiatives undertaken to promote Indian education and skills abroad, including the establishment of Indian education and training institutions in foreign countries; and
- (c) the measures taken to provide assistance to Indian students and professionals who have been affected by changes in visa regulations or other immigration-related issues?

**ANSWER**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
(SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH)

(a) to (c) Providing safety and security to Indian students abroad is a priority of the Government of India. Indian Missions/Posts abroad maintain regular contacts with the Indian students enrolled in Universities abroad. New Indian students, enrolled in foreign Universities, are invited where possible to participate in Welcome Ceremonies organised by Indian Missions/Posts abroad. Indian Missions/Posts also organise Orientation Programmes and brief them on challenges and threats, if any, that they may confront during their stay in the foreign land and how to take counter active measures. Heads of Indian Missions/Posts and other senior Embassy officials also visit Foreign Universities and Educational Institutions in their respective countries of accreditation to interact with Indian students and Indian Students' Associations.

Indian Missions/Posts abroad encourage Indian students travelling abroad for higher studies to register with them as also on the MADAD Portal so that their grievances and outstanding issues can be addressed. Indian Missions/Posts abroad also urge Indian students to remain connected on a regular basis and make all possible efforts to respond to the outstanding issues faced by them on priority. The grievances of the students are responded timely through telephone calls, walk-ins, emails, social media, 24x7 emergency helplines, Open Houses and the MADAD Portal.

Complaints received from the Indian students abroad are taken up with the concerned University/Institution and the host Government, as the case may be, for requisite action. Cases of untoward incidents are also immediately taken up by the Indian Missions/Posts abroad with the concerned authorities of the host country to ensure that they are properly investigated and the perpetrators are punished. During emergencies or crisis situations, Indian Missions/Posts abroad

pro-actively help distressed/stranded Indian students overseas by providing them food, shelter, medicines and ensure their return/evacuation to India as soon as possible.

Formulation of visa related policies, including visa fees to be charged from foreign nationals is a sovereign matter of countries. Further, the details of visa issuance or visa rejection are only available with foreign Governments, as acceptance or rejection of visa is a sovereign matter of the foreign Government, and is not disclosed/available in public domain. However, visa related matters, particularly visa policies intended to improve ease of travel for Indian citizens are taken up by the Government through bilateral mechanisms, including during Consular Dialogues with foreign countries and during High level visits.

Besides these measures for the welfare and safety of Indian students abroad, the Government of India has signed diverse MoUs/Agreements such as Migration and Mobility Partnerships, Labour Mobility and Labour Welfare Agreements with various countries to establish a robust framework for strengthening regular migration pathways. These Agreements/MoUs seek to streamline visa procedures, tackle irregular migration, and encourage the mobility of Indian students.

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