

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 566
TO BE ANSWERED 09.12.2022**

STUDENTS RETURNING TO UKRAINE

566. SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN:

Will the Minister of External Affairs be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the students who were pursuing medical education in Ukraine are returning to Ukraine for the completion of their education despite advisories warning and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the details of the steps taken by the Government to support these students on their return to India;
- (c) whether the Government has taken note of the reports that these students had to return to Ukraine are doing so at the risk of their safety since they did not get adequate support to complete their education in India;
- (d) if so, the steps are being taken by the Government to provide support and assure the safety of the Indian students in Ukraine; and
- (e) the manner in which the Government would ensure their safety and return to India in light of increasing hostilities?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

(SMT. MEENAKSHI LEKHI)

- (a) Yes Sir. The Indian Mission in Kyiv issued an Advisory on 25 October 2022 advising all Indian citizens to immediately leave Ukraine by available means. While most of the Indian students pursuing medical education in Ukraine have returned to India since the conflict began, around 1100 Indian students are currently in Ukraine.

(b) & (c) The National Medical Commission (NMC), vide Public Notice dated 28.07.22, devised a scheme under which the Indian students who were in the last year of their undergraduate medicine course but had to leave their foreign medical institute and have subsequently completed their studies with certificate of completion of course/degree by their respective institute, on or before 30th June, 2022, shall be permitted to appear in the Foreign Medical Graduate (FMG) Examination. Thereafter, upon qualifying the FMG examination, such foreign medical graduates are required to undergo Compulsory Rotating Medical Internship for a period of two years to make up for the clinical training which could not be physically done by them during the undergraduate medicine course in the foreign institute and also to familiarize them with practice of medicine under Indian conditions.

The NMC has issued Public Notices in September 2022 conveying its no-objection to the Academic Mobility Program offered by Ukraine i.e. temporary relocation (for the period of conflict) to some other universities, provided that other criteria of Screening Test Regulations 2002 are fulfilled. It is also clarified that there were no restrictions on permanent transfer to universities in third countries for medical students covered under Screening Test Regulations, 2002. 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 Hospital during their MBBS course.

(d) & (e) All Indian citizens in Ukraine have been advised by our Mission in Kyiv to strictly follow the safety and security guidelines issued by the Ukrainian Government and local authorities. The Mission, in its Advisory, had also provided information about available options to Indian citizens for crossing borders and it remains in touch with our nationals in Ukraine to provide help, when required.
