

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.3713  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 25.03.2022**

**HARASSMENT OF STUDENTS IN POLAND**

**†3713. SHRI DEEPAK BAIJ:**

**SHRI BALUBHAU ALIAS SURESH NARAYAN DHANORKAR:**

**Will the Minister of External Affairs pleased to state:**

- (a) whether Indian students faced harassment in the form of physical assault, extortion of money by Ukrainian authorities and Poland police as they attempted to leave the country from its land borders;**
- (b) if so, the details thereof;**
- (c) the number of students that have suffered injuries due to this harassment;**
- (d) the number of students that have reported extortion of funds along with the total quantum of money lost;**
- (e) whether there was any contact with Ukrainian/Poland border forces to allow the free exit of Indian students into neighbouring countries along with number of Indian officials present at the border; and'**
- (f) if so, the details thereof and if not, reasons therefor?**

**ANSWER**

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
[SMT. MEENAKASHI LEKHI]**

**(a) to (d) There were difficult situations faced by Indian students as a result of heavy congestion and over-crowding at the Ukrainian-Polish border in the initial days after the conflict broke out. According to UN estimates, out of the 3.2 million refugees from Ukraine that have crossed over to its western neighbours, almost 2 million have crossed over to Poland. We have no reports of any injuries suffered by Indian nationals.**

**(e) & (f) An MEA team of 8 officials including Russian speaking officers were deployed at the Ukrainian-Polish border points. Our Ambassador in Poland was constantly in touch with the Polish Border-Guard. Similarly, our Embassy in Ukraine was in touch with the concerned Ukrainian authorities. Their constant intervention at border check-points helped to address the severe challenges posed by over-congestion. Their liaison with local governments and community organizations was responsible for the boarding, lodging and medical attention of evacuees.**

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