

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1747
TO BE ANSWERED ON 27.07.2016**

ADVISORY TO INDIAN STUDENTS

**1747. DR. P. VENUGOPAL:
SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR:**

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has issued an advisory to students that they should check the credibility of educational institutions in Northern Cyprus;**
- (b) if so, the details thereof;**
- (c) whether the Government has also asked the students not to go to places where India does not have diplomatic presence;**
- (d) if so, the details thereof;**
- (e) the number of countries where India does not have diplomatic presence; and**
- (f) the measures taken by the Government to have diplomatic presence in these countries?**

ANSWER

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
(SHRI M. J. AKBAR)**

- (a) & (b) Yes. The Ministry of External Affairs issued on 16 May, 2016 an Advisory for Indian Students facing problems in Universities in northern Cyprus. Details are given in the Annex.**
- (c) No such advice has been issued by the Ministry of External Affairs.**
- (d) Not applicable.**
- (e) India has resident diplomatic presence in 123 countries. In countries where there are no resident Indian diplomatic Missions, resident Indian Missions in neighbouring countries are concurrently accredited in most cases.**
- (f) The decision to open a new Mission depends on a variety of factors including the level of bilateral economic, political and people-to-people engagement, size of the Diaspora and nature of reciprocal diplomatic presence in India from the country concerned. The Ministry continuously evaluates requirement for new Missions/Posts abroad in consultation with all stakeholders.**

**Advisory for Indian Students facing problems in Universities in northern Cyprus
(May 16, 2016)**

May 16, 2016

Instances of malpractices have recently been reported by the Indian students who took admission in some universities in the northern part of Cyprus.

In particular, complaints have been received against "Cyprus International University (CIU)" that has reportedly asked for additional fee from the Indian students after they took admission at that university. Some students have also raised questions about the credibility and recognition of the courses offered by the university.

In general, students seeking admission in universities and institutes abroad are advised to check the reputation, ranking and background of the institution and conduct thorough research as to whether the certificate/degree granted by them is internationally recognised, and in particular in India.

The Association of Indian Universities (AIU)'s website may also be checked for this purpose. The contractual obligations, terms/conditions, fee structure for the course proposed may be studied carefully and if possible, Indian students already studying there and the Indian Mission concerned may be consulted before taking the final decision and making any payment to the universities/institutions or their agencies.

In reference to any universities and institutes located in the northern part of Cyprus, it may be noted that due to political factors the officials of the High Commission of India in Nicosia (accredited to Republic of Cyprus) are not in a position to visit the northern part of Cyprus or maintain any contact with the authorities there. Thus, if Indian students studying there face any problem, the officials of High Commission in Nicosia will not be in a position to intervene to help the students.

The Indian students desirous of studying in any universities or institutes in the northern part of Cyprus may kindly take this information into account and consider studying in suitable institutions in other places.

**New Delhi
May 16, 2016**
