GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO- 275

ANSWERED ON 09.08.2024

MIGRATION AGREEMENTS FOR WELFARE OF STUDENTS

***275. DR. PRADEEP KUMAR PANIGRAHY**

Will the Minister of External Affairs be pleased to state :-

(a) the details of measures undertaken by the Government for the welfare and assistance of students and young professionals going abroad for education; and

(b) the list of countries whom the Government has signed migration agreements along with the benefits of the agreements accruing to young professionals, workers and students?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

(DR. SUBRAHMANYAM JAISHANKAR)

(a & b) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

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Statement referred to in reply to parts (a) to (b) in respect of Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 275 for reply on 09.08.2024 regarding 'Migration Agreements for Welfare of Students'.

(a) Safety and welfare of Indian students and young professionals going abroad for education are the top most priorities of Government of India. Indian Missions/Posts abroad maintain regular contacts with Indian students enrolled in Universities abroad. New Indian students enrolled in foreign Universities, are invited to participate in events organised by Indian Missions/Posts abroad. Senior Embassy officials also visit foreign Universities and Educational Institutions in their respective countries of accreditation to regularly interact with Indian students and Indian Students' Associations.

Indian Missions/Posts abroad also encourage Indian students and young professionals travelling abroad for higher studies to register with them. Indian Missions/Posts abroad also encourage them to remain connected on a regular basis and make all possible efforts to respond to the outstanding issues faced by them on a priority basis. The grievances of the students and young professionals are responded to almost on a real time basis through telephone calls, walk-ins, emails, social media, 24x7 emergency helplines, open houses and the MADAD Portal. Any complaint received from the Indian students and young professionals abroad are

taken up with the concerned University/Institution and the host Government, 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 Indians overseas by providing them food, shelter, medicines and ensure their return/evacuation to India as soon as possible. Shelter homes for distressed Indian nationals have also been set up at some Missions/Posts. Financial assistance to distressed Indians, if necessary, is provided through the Indian Community Welfare Fund (ICWF). Most recently, stranded Indian nationals were evacuated to India through the Vande Bharat Mission, Operation Ganga (Ukraine), Operation Kaveri (Sudan) and Operation Ajay (Israel) from countries around the world. The return of many Indian students and young professionals from Bangladesh was also facilitated by our High Commission.

(b) List of countries with which Migration & Mobility Agreements and Labour Mobility Agreements have been signed from 2014 till date is appended at Annexure-A. Government of India has signed diverse MoUs/Agreements such as Migration and Mobility Partnerships, Labour Mobility and Labour Welfare with various countries to establish a robust framework for strengthening regular migration pathways. These Agreements/MoUs seek to promote people-to-people ties, streamline

visa procedures, tackle irregular migration, reinforce bilateral relations, and encourage skilled labour mobility. The Migration & Mobility Partnership Agreements , inter alia, include provisions for facilitating the mobility of Indian students, young professions etc. abroad such as the extended post-study stays, intra-corporate secondment etc. The Labour Welfare & Mobility Agreements, while facilitating mobility of Indian skilled workforce, contain safeguards and provisions for ensuring the welfare of Indian workers employed overseas.

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Annexure-A

Migration & Mobility Agreements Signed since 2014

S. No.	MMPA signed with	Signed on
1.	France	10th March 2018
2.	United Kingdom	4th May 2021
3.	Germany	5th December 2022
4.	Austria	13th May 2023
5.	Australia	23rd May 2023
6.	Italy	2nd November 2023
7.	Denmark	22nd February 2024

Labour Mobility Agreements Signed since 2014

S. No.	LMA signed with	Signed on
1.	Saudi Arabia	3rd April 2016
2.	United Arab Emirates	11th February 2018
3.	Jordan	1st March 2018
4.	Japan	18th January 2021
5.	Kuwait	10th June 2021
6.	Portugal	13th September 2021
7.	Mauritius	10th May 2023
8.	Israel	3rd November 2023
9.	Taiwan	16th February 2024

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