

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-1353**  
ANSWERED ON- 14/12/2023

**INDIAN STUDENTS STUDYING ABROAD**

1353. SHRI ELAMARAM KAREEM

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

(a) whether Government has any data on the number of Indian students joining in universities abroad for higher education, if so, the details of 10 nations where maximum number of students have gone for higher studies during the last five years, if not, the reasons therefor;

(b) the main factors which attract Indian students to foreign soil; and

(c) the manner in which Government would ensure the welfare of these students without having their exact statistics?

**ANSWER**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

(SHRI V. MURALEEDHARAN)

(a & b) As per information received from Bureau of Immigration, top ten destinations for Indians going abroad for higher studies during the last 5 years are United States of America, Canada, United Kingdom, Australia, Germany, Russian Federation, Bangladesh, Kyrgyzstan, Ukraine and Singapore. The number of Indian students abroad is estimated at 1.5 million.

(c) The welfare of Indian students abroad is one of the foremost priorities for the Government of India. Indian Missions/ Posts abroad arrange welcome ceremonies for students enrolled for studying in foreign universities, encouraging them to register with the Missions/ Posts. Heads of Mission/Post and senior officials visit Universities and educational institutions for regular interactions with Indian students and student associations. Indian Missions/Posts abroad regularly issue advisories on issues related to the students providing them with the information necessary to make informed decisions about their education. Indian Missions/ Posts abroad respond to any issues raised by Indian students on priority basis. Grievances are responded through various channels like calls, walk-ins, e-mails, social media, 24x7 Helplines, Open Houses, MADAD portal, etc. Any complaints received from the students abroad are taken up with the concerned universities/ educational institutions and the host government as the case may be, for requisite action. Our Missions and Posts remain vigilant and closely monitor the well being of students. In case there is any untoward incident, it is immediately taken up with the concerned authorities of the host country to ensure that the incident is properly investigated and the perpetrators are punished. During emergency or crisis situations, our Missions/Posts abroad pro-actively help distressed /stranded Indian students by providing consular assistance, food, shelter, medicine and return passage to India. Most recently, Indian students were repatriated under various operations such as Vande Bharat Mission, Operation Ganga and Operation Ajay from countries around the world.

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