

3. Council for Promotion of Overseas Employment (now renamed as Indian Council of Overseas Employment)

This has been established as a Society under the Societies Registration Act of 1860 and was registered on 30th July, 2008.

4. Global Indian Network of Knowledge (Global INK)

Global Indian Network of Knowledge (Global INK), an electronic platform will connect people of Indian Origin from a variety of Disciplines, recognized as leaders in their respective fields, not just in their country of residence but globally as well, with knowledge users at the national and sub-national levels in India. The network will serve as a strategic 'virtual think tank'. The outcome targeted will be the germination of ideas on development, identification of the key elements in addressing the challenges to development and articulating and mapping out solution through innovation and technological interventions.

5. PIO/NRI University

The task of setting up the first PIO/NRI university at Bangaluru has been entrusted to the Manipal Academy of Higher Education Trust (MAHET).

Safety of Indian Workers Abroad

634. SHRI A. ELAVARASAN: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has entered into agreements with foreign countries to protect the life and employment of Indians working there;

(b) if so, the number of countries with which our country has made mutual agreement in this regard;

(c) the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) to (d) The protection and welfare of emigrant workers requires bilateral cooperation. India had signed Labour Agreements with Jordan and Qatar in 1980s. The Ministry, after its creation in 2004, has made concerted efforts to enter into bilateral Memoranda of Understanding (MoU) with all the major receiving Countries for ensuring the safety and welfare of our emigrant workers. MoUs have been signed with DAE in December, 2006, with Kuwait in April 2007, with Oman in November 2008, with Malaysia in January 2009 and with Bahrain in June, 2009.

The MoUs contain broad principles for enhancing employment opportunities and for ensuring that the recruitment and terms of employment are in conformity with the laws of both the Countries, measures to be taken by the host Country for protection and welfare of the workers and constitution of a Joint Working Group for effective implementation of the MoU.

Details of Indian in Foreign Countries

635. SHRI A. ELAVARASAN: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government proposes to register details of Indians in foreign countries to provide emergency help in case of any atrocities against them as of now in Australia against Indian students;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) to (c) All Indian Missions/Posts register Indians living within their consular jurisdiction upon an application made by them in the prescribed format.

Passports issued to Indian nationals carry an advisory requesting them to register their presence when outside India with the nearest Indian Diplomatic Mission/Post.

Problems during Admission of NRI Children

636. SHRIMATI SYEDA ANWARA TAIMUR: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether problems have been faced by NRIs in getting their children admission in Indian universities;
- (b) if so, whether assurances were given to NRIs that the procedure for admission of their children in Indian universities would be further streamlined; and
- (c) the number of NRI children who applied for admission in Indian universities and the numbers that were actually admitted during 2008?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) Such problems, if any, have not been brought to the notice of this Ministry.

- (b) Does not arise.
- (c) No such data is maintained.

Visa by Australia to Indian students

†637. SHRI PRABHAT JHA:

SHRI BALVANT ALIAS BAL APTE:

Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of Indian students who have been issued visa by the Australian Government for pursuing their studies there;
- (b) the number of Indian students pursuing their studies in the Melbourne city of Australia;
- (c) whether these students have been made the target of racial attacks there; and
- (d) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) As per data released by the Australian Government, 58,029 Indian nationals were issued student visas during the period July 2008 to May, 2009.

(b) The exact number of students in Melbourne city is not available. However, as of June, 2008 there were 46,028 Indian students in Victoria state.

(c) and (d) A few cases of attacks may have had a racial aspect, details of which are given in the statement.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.