

[3 May, 2007]

RAJYA SABHA

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. As per information provided by the Highly Skilled Migration Programme (HSMP) group to the High Commission of India, there are about 35,000 Indians who entered the UK under HSMP between 2002 and 2006.

(c) Yes; Sir.

(d) and (e) The High Commission of India in London has taken up the matter with the British Government as well as with British Parliamentarians. It has been informed by the Government of UK that the point based system is designed to allow highly skilled people to migrate to the UK over long run. They have further informed that to those who are already in the UK, Government will be as helpful as possible. The necessity of not applying the amendments with retrospective effect, and the need to have some policy in the transition period in order to ameliorate the impact of these amendments on Indian professionals entering UK has been highlighted to UK Government.

#### **University for NRIs**

3099. PROF. P.J. KURIEN: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 1715 given in Rajya Sabha on 7th December, 2006 and state:

(a) what action since then has taken in this regard;

(b) whether location of the university has been decided;

(c) if so, details thereof; and

(d) whether Government would consider setting it up the State of Kerala, which has a large number of NRI population?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) A policy framework for setting up a NRI/PIO University at a suitable place in the country, ensuring flexibility in the choice of disciplines and courses offered, has been approved by the Government.

(b) to (d) No, Sir. A decision in this regard would be based on the receipt of offers from interest parties.