

**Package for returnees from Dubai**

354. SHRI P. RAJEEVE: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has formulated any special package for the returnees from Dubai due to financial crisis;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether his Ministry has any statistics regarding Gulf returnees in this financial year?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI S.M. KRISHNA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir, However, as per the Reports of the Missions, there has been no major retrenchment of Indian workers in the Gulf.

**Incidents of attacks on Indians**

355. SHRI SANJAY RAUT:

SHRI GOVINDRAO WAMANRAO ADIK:

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

(a) whether a large number of incidents of attacks on Indians including students in various countries particularly in Australia have been reported during the last three months;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of steps taken/being taken by Government to ensure safety and security of the Indian students in these countries; and

(d) the steps taken or being taken by Australian Government for safety and security of Indians in that country?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI S.M. KRISHNA): (a) and (b) There have been reports of over a hundred incidents of attacks on Indian nationals including students, from Australia since May, 2009. Details, as reported by Indian Mission/Posts in Australia, are given in the Annexure [Refer to the Annexure No. 3 Appendix No. 219 in respect of Starred Question No. 42 Part 'c' answered on 25-02-2010].

(c) The Indian diplomatic Missions & Posts abroad take up with the local authorities at various levels, any incidents of attacks on Indian nationals. Details of steps taken by the Government of India in regard to incidents in Australia are given in the Statement-I [Refer to the statement appended to the Answer to Unstarred Question No. 351 Part 'c'].

(d) At a result of our demarches with the Government of Australia, various steps have been taken to ensure the safety and security of Indian nationals in Australia. Details are given in the Statement-II.

### ***Statement-II***

#### *Steps taken by the Australian Government*

- A Task Force headed by the National Security Advisor Duncan Lewis was set up in the office of the Australian Prime Minister in June last year to formulate a 'whole of government' approach to the issue and liaise with State Governments the action being taken by them.
- In January 2010, another Standing Consultative Group has been set up involving the federal and Victorian state governments.
- In Melbourne as well as in Sydney, where there are significant populations of Indian students, the police have increased patrolling where incidents have occurred.
- In Melbourne, police presence has been stepped up especially around train stations and high crime neighborhoods.
- Numbers of police, including in plain clothes, on late night trains taken by students, has been increased;
- The Victoria State Government's Robbery Task Force has been doubled, the police force is also being increased in a major crack-down on crime, especially at stations; the police have been given wider powers to move unruly people on and to search for weapons without a warrant, which has already led to arrests. CCTV systems have been set up to monitor key crime areas and catch offenders. A mobile CCTV van has also been deployed to monitor main trouble spots.
- Victoria has set up a 24 hotline for students who need advice and help
- Sentencing laws have been amended to require judges to take into account hatred for, or prejudice against, a particular group as an aggravating factor when sentencing.
- In Melbourne, a 24 hour support and assistance International Student Care Service has been established to provide assistance with counseling, legal assistance and other support services, including in Hindi and Mandarin.
- Over 54 arrests have been made and sentences have been handed down; investigations are continuing and more arrests are expected.
- Community reference group involving the police, state government and members of the Indian community and representatives of the High Commission and Consulates have been set up in several states - Victoria, New South Wales, Queensland, West Australia and South Australia, to facilitate communication and increase awareness on safety issues

- The Federal and State Governments have taken steps to regulate and reform the universities and institutions, including the appointment of educational agents abroad. Several private colleges have been audited and many closed down; the students so affected have been placed in other colleges offering the same courses.

#### **Demands during Pravasi Bhartiya Sammelan-2010**

†356. SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:

SHRI MOTILAL VORA:

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

- (a) the demands put forwards by overseas Indians in the Pravasi Bhartiya Sammelan held in January, 2010;
- (b) the reaction of Government thereto;
- (c) the time when inter-Ministerial meetings were held to provide assistance to Indian women deserted by overseas Indian husbands and the steps taken by Government for implementing the decisions taken therein; and
- (d) the number of cases that has come to notice of Government in the last three years and the number of cases therefrom in which assistance was provided?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI S.M. KRISHNA): (a) and (b) The 8th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD) convention was held in New Delhi for two days from 8th and 9th January, 2010. There were three plenary and six concurrent sessions, besides 11 individual state sessions on specific themes of interest and concern to the overseas Indian community. Several suggestions were made by delegates at the PBD. The Ministry takes action on those relevant to its mandate.

(c) A meeting was held on 19th October, 2006 in the Ministry to discuss the scheme to provide financial /legal assistance for the welfare of Indian women deserted by their overseas Indian spouses and the "Scheme for giving legal /financial assistance to Indian women deserted by their overseas Indian spouses" was introduced in February, 2007.

(d) The total number of cases received in the Ministry (till January, 2010) is 335. The Indian Missions/Posts concerned have so far rendered legal and financial assistance to 19 Indian women under the Ministry's scheme.

#### **Indians attacked in foreign countries**

357. SHRI NAND KISHORE YADAV:

SHRI KAMAL AKHTAR:

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

- (a) the number of Indians attacked in Australia, Britain and other countries during last three months till February, 2010 and the number of persons who died or injured in such incidents, country-wise;

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† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.