

(b) the number of people arrested in this regard and the number of people against whom action has been taken, country-wise;

(c) whether despite the assurance from Government of Australia attacks are still going on; and

(d) the substantial arrangement made for the security of the migrants and students studying in Australia?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI S.M. KRISHNA): (a) There have been reports of 33 incidents of attacks on Indian nationals from Australia from December 2009 to February, 2010. On 31.01.2010, an Indian taxi driver was murdered in Auckland, New Zealand. A Sikh student was also reported to have been brutally assaulted and thrown into a swimming pool in West Texas in USA. There were no other such reports from Britain or any other country.

(b) All cases have been registered by the police authorities and investigations started. In Australia arrests have been made in six cases.

(c) While we continue to receive reports of sporadic attacks on Indians in Australia there does not appear to be any evidence to indicate a persistent rise. There was a spurt in the number of such attacks in January 2010, after a gap of over six months.

(d) Steps taken by the Government of India is given in the Statement [Refer to the statement appended to the Answer to Unstarred Question No. 351 Part 'c']

Indians assaulted in Australia

358. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA:

SHRI T.K. RANGARAJAN:

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

(a) whether Government has been seized of the unabated incidents of physical assaults being suffered by Indian students in Australia for more than a year now;

(b) if so, the details of such incidents indicating number of Indian citizens who lost their lives and those received physical injuries of various degree;

(c) the details of steps taken, if any, in chronological order, by Government with a view to ensure protection of Indian citizen by the Australian authorities and action against attackers to bring them to justice; and

(d) the outcome, if any, thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI S.M. KRISHNA): (a) and (b) There have been reports of incidents of attacks on Indian nationals, including students, in Australia since May 2009. Details, of such incidents, as reported by Indian Mission/Posts in Australia, are given in the Annexure I [Refer to Annexure No.3 Appendix No. 219 in respect of Starred Question No. 42 Part 'c' answered on 25-2-2010].

(c) The issue of attacks on Indian students in Australia has been taken up at the highest level, with the Government of Australia, emphasizing that such attacks should not be allowed to recur and that it is the responsibility of the Australian authorities to ensure the well-being and security of our students in Australia. Details of steps taken by the Government are given in the statement. [Refer to the statement appended to the Answer to Unstarred Question No. 351 part 'c'].

(d) At the instance of the Government of India, the Government of Australia have taken a several important measures aimed at enhancing the safety and security of our students, both at the State as well as the Federal level, which have been useful. Details are given in the statement. [Refer to the statement appended to the Answer to Unstarred Question No. 355 Part 'd'].

Factor effecting jobs abroad

†359. SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether besides global recession, there are other reasons also which have affected the jobs being offered to Indians abroad;

(b) if so, the details of these reasons along with the countries; and

(c) the measures being taken to mitigate the adverse effect?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI S.M. KRISHNA): (a) to (c) There has been a reduction in the number of workers migrating abroad for overseas employment in the past year. Apart from the global recession, the other reason is the increasing localization of employment in the Gulf Countries. However, this has not affected employment of low skilled category of workers in a significant manner. To widen the destination base for skilled and semi skilled workers from India, the Ministry is concluding Labour Mobility Partnerships with some member States of the European Union.

Assistance to racial victims

360. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOT: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any kind of assistance and support is given to Indians facing racial discrimination in Australia;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI S.M. KRISHNA): (a) to (c) There have been reports of incidents of attacks on Indian nationals, including students, some of which could have had racial overtones. However, there have been no reports of Indians facing racial discrimination in Australia. The victims of the attacks have been provided all possible assistance by the Indian High

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.