

(b) whether Government of Australia have taken necessary steps other than doing lip service to protect the Indians; and

(c) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI S.M. KRISHNA): (a) No data on number of Indian students who are unlikely to go to Australia on accounts of recent incidents of attacks on Indian nationals including students, is available.

(b) and (c) At the instance of Government of India, the Government of Australia have taken various steps towards ensuring security and safety of Indian nationals and students. Details are given in the statement [Refer to the statement appended to the Answer to Unstarred Question No. 355 Part 'd'].

#### **Attack on Indians**

365. SHRI N.K. SINGH: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that attacks on Indians continue unabated in Australia;

(b) if so, the details of efforts made by Government to ensure that attacks on Indians in Australia are controlled;

(c) whether Government proposes to ensure that remedial measures are urgently undertaken to check such attack on Indians in Australia; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI S.M. KRISHNA): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. The Government of India is deeply concerned about the problems faced by Indians including students in Australia. 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. The Prime Minister of India conveyed the high priority that Government of India attaches to the safety, security and well-being of Indian community in Australia to the Prime Minister of Australia, Mr. Kevin Rudd during his visit to India on 12 November, 2009. Mr. Rudd had reiterated that Australia had a zero tolerance approach to violence and was committed to taking all possible measures to protect the safety and welfare of all international students including Indian students. The Indian Mission and Posts are following up the incidents very closely and are continuously taking up the issue with the Federal and State Governments at all levels. The Indian Mission/Posts also maintain regular liaison with the students in universities and other educational institutions, as well as through participating in the meetings and seminars organised by the local government and law enforcement authorities, as well as the Indian community. Guidelines for students who propose to study in Australia, as also those already studying there are posted on the websites of the Ministries of

Overseas Indian Affairs, External Affairs as well as those of Indian Mission/Posts in Australia. At the instance of the Government of India, the Government of Australia has 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.

#### Students in Australia and New Zealand

366. SARDAR TARLOCHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of Indian students who have gone to Australia and New Zealand during last four years, give year-wise figures;
- (b) the number of them who have been given country's citizenship; and
- (c) the number who have been given work permits?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI S.M. KRISHNA): (a) The available data on the number of Indian students who have gone to Australia and New Zealand during the last four years are as follows:

Year	Australia	New Zealand
2005	Not available	2,114
2006	38,199	2,566
2007	61,726	3,736
2008	94,580	6,040
2009	120,569	Not available

(b) and (c) Information on the number of Indian students who have been given citizenships of Australia and New Zealand is not available. In Australia students are allowed to work for 20 hours per week during the study period and unlimited number of hours during the vacation.

#### MPS/MLAs of Indian origin

367. SARDAR TARLOCHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of people of Indian origin who are Members of Parliament, Legislative Assemblies or Councils abroad;
- (b) the names thereof, country-wise;
- (c) whether any Indian born person has attained any position higher than the above mentioned categories; and
- (d) whether Government has any contact with them?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI S.M. KRISHNA): (a) and (b) As per available information, there are 324 Persons of Indian Origin who are MPs/MLAs/Member of Local Councils in different countries. Their names, country-wise, are given in the Statement (See below).