1	2	3	4	5
3.	Oman	1182	1191	815
4.	Kingdom of Saudi Arabia	1196	1506	544
5.	Kuwait	148	156	58
6.	Bahrain	210	175	86
7.	Malaysia	23	90	25
8.	Libya	287	452	479
9.	Jordan	122	34	49
10.	Yemen	20	08	-
11.	Sudan	19	110	128
12.	Afghanistan	34	24	07
13.	Indonesia	-	-	-
14.	Syria	1	-	-
15.	Lebanon	-	-	-
16.	Thailand	1	-	-
17.	Iraq	-	-	-
	TOTAL :	8926	6428	3454

Atrocities against Indians in Australia

480. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether recent atrocities against Indians in Australia had been investigated;

(b) if so, the details of Indians facing violent discriminatory actions from the Australians, and details of action taken by the Australian Government to curb such violent discriminatory actions by the Australians against Indians and total number of Indians working and studying in Australia; and

(c) the changes that had been introduced in the administrative structure of Australian Government to enable Indians to live and study in Australia peacefully?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) The reported cases of assault on Indians in Australia are being investigated by the Australian Police Authorities.

(b) and (c) Details available are included in the given in Statement.

Statement

Details of actions taken by Australian Govt. to stop atrocities against Indians

(b) The cases of assaults and attacks on Indians in Australia are being a investigated by the Australian police authorities. In some cases, including in the case of Nitin Garg's murder, perpetrators have been identified, brought before the courts and judgement is expected to be delivered soon. Most of the incidents of violence have been of opportunistic nature involving robbery. There is no confirmation that these violent attacks are targeted towards Indians alone. The Australian authorities have put into place several measures to curb these attacks including the following:

A Task Force headed by National Security Advisor Duncan Lewis was set up in June, 2009 in the office of Australian Prime Minister to formulate a 'whole of Government' approach to the issue and liaise with state governments on the action being taken by them.

In Melbourne as well as in Sydney, the police increased patrolling where incidents had occurred. The Victoria State Government's Robbery Taskforce was doubled; several offenders were charged. A Community Reference Group for Western Melbourne involving the police and members of the Indian community to facilitate communication on safety issues was established. A hotline was set up for Indian students. Free legal advice and referral for international students was made available at Melbourne.

The Victorian Government has set up a 24 hours International Students Care Service in Carlton Suburb close to the Central Business District of Melbourne, where many of the private colleges are located. The service has 24/7 hotline staffed by trained persons, some of whom also speak Hindi. The Centre provides psychological counselling, legal assistance, assistance with any problem with educational institute, employer or landlord or any other authority. It also provides financial assistance to students for temporary accommodation as well as assistance to take care of medical expenses/funeral/transportation of mortal remains.

The New South Wales (NSW) and South Australian Government have also taken action to improve policing, interaction with students and provide information cards to students to seek emergency assistance whenever required.

The South Australia Government has set up a taxi council, in which the Consulate General of India is a member, to hold regular discussions with taxi drivers, many of whom are students.

The total number of Indians working and studying in Australia is estimated to be around 400,000.

(c) Following are the changes that have been introduced in the Administrative structure by the Australian Government to enable Indians to live and study in Australia peacefully:

In 2009, the Australian Government commissioned a review by Mr. Bruce Baird of the *Education Services for Overseas Students (ESOS) Act, 2000,* to look into the several problems being faced by international students in Australia. Mr. Baird in his report, titled "Stronger, simpler, smarter ESOS: supporting international students", made a host of recommendations which are under consideration. The Council of Australian Governments (COAG), the apex intergovernmental forum in Australia, comprising the Prime Minister, State Premiers, Territory Chief Ministers and the President of the Local Government Association, has also been considering the issue.

The Senate Committee on Education, Employment and Workplace Relations submitted an inquiry report on welfare of international students in Australia in November, 2009, recommending, *inter alia,* that international students be provided up-to-date information; transport concessions for international students be provided by all states, including Victoria and New South Wales and review of the appropriateness of 20-hour limit on working hours.

The Victorian Government amended the *Victorian Sentencing Act 1991* in December, 2009 which requires a sentencing court to have regard to whether an offence was committed by hatred of, or prejudice against, a group of people with common characteristics with which the victim was associated or with which the offender believed the victim was associated.

Emigration fund collected from NRIs

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has emigration fund under protection of emigrant head collected from NRIs;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government has any plans to utilize this fund for the benefit of the returnees from foreign countries?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) to (c) No, Sir. However, prior to the introduction of the Pravasi Bhartiya Bima Yojna in 2003 the outgoing emigrants were required to deposit one-way airfare as security to be used in the event of their repatriation. This security amount is refunded on demand to the emigrants once they return to India.