

Harassment to Indian students

*56. DR. K.V.P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the passports of the students admitted in the California based Tri-Valley University have been confiscated and they have been radio tagged to track their movement; and

(b) if so, the steps that are being taken by Government to protect the Indian students studying in USA?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI S.M. KRISHNA): (a) Approximately 1500 Indian students were enrolled at the Tri Valley University in California, which was closed by the United States Government on 19 January, 2011 for alleged fraudulent practices. A number of Indian students were questioned and 18 of them, facing investigation in the case, were initially detained and then released with radio monitoring devices on their ankles.

(b) The Government has conveyed to the US Government that radio tagging is unacceptable and should be removed; and, that the students, who are themselves victims of fraud, should be given adequate time and opportunity to transfer to other universities or adjust their status and, if they desire, return to India honourably.

Our Mission and the Consulates in the United States are regularly meeting a large number of the affected students and providing all possible assistance to them, including by organising a free legal aid camp and by issuing appropriate guidance and advisories to them.

There are over 100,000 Indian students at US universities, who enjoy a strong reputation for academic accomplishments and responsible conduct.

Transparency in road construction projects

†*57. SHRI RAMCHANDRA PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Ministry of Finance has asked the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways that there is a need to bring transparency in the bidding process for road construction projects;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has taken steps to bring transparency in the bidding process in view of said advice; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.