

International students to pursue PhD and Post-Doctoral research in India under its various scholarship schemes.

Apart from the above two schemes meant for foreign scholars, Council also extends support to Indian academicians to do field research in an International university for a period of 3 months under its scheme, 'Study Visits of Indian Scholars abroad'. The list of all such cases is being compiled and will be provided shortly.

(b) and (c) The lists are being prepared and will be provided shortly.

(d) and (e) Yes. The Council has always endeavored to include traditional art and cultural groups from the region.

(f) Not Applicable.

Visa stickers stolen during transit

633. SHRIMATI VASANTHI STANLEY:

SHRI SANJAY RAUT:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an Indian diplomatic bag with a visa stickers was stolen during transit from the airport to the Indian High Commission;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to retrieve the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED): (a) Yes.

(b) On 3 September, 2012, the High Commission of India, London was informed that 4 Diplomatic Bags, including 3 Bags containing 6000 visa stickers, were stolen in transit from Heathrow Airport to the High Commission. The lost visa stickers were part of a consignment of 50,000 visa stickers sent to the High Commission.

(c) A case was registered at the police station concerned in London. The High Commission has been closely following with UK authorities. In addition, as soon as the incident came to notice, all authorities concerned in India were informed. Suitable action was taken by the authorities to prevent any misuse of visa stickers.