

- (xi) Migrant Resource Centres have been set up in Kochi, Hyderabad, Gurgaon, Chennai and Lucknow to provide walk-in information and counseling for intending migrants on all aspects related to overseas employment.
- (xii) Indian Workers Resource Centre (IWRC) has been operational in Dubai, UAE since 2010 to provide information and counseling to Indian nationals on legal, financial and medical issues. They also organize awareness camps on these issues in consultation with the Indian Mission.
- (xiii) In July 2016 Ministry launched a media campaign about "Safe and Legal Migration" which sensitizes intending Indian migrant workers about the need to verify the credentials of the recruitment agent and obtain all necessary documents for working abroad.

US Administration sending back Indian students

426. SHRI N. GOKULAKRISHNAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether US Administration has sent back many students to India in spite of having valid Visa and other documents;
- (b) if so, the steps taken to restrain US Administration not to resort to such things as students' career and life is at stake;
- (c) whether FBI is also catching hold of students who have gone to US to study and are also doing part-time jobs whenever they get an opportunity to do so;
- (d) the reasons for showing discrimination against Indians and showing soft corner towards others; and
- (e) the efforts being made by the Ministry to address the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS [GENERAL (RETD.) V. K. SINGH]: (a) In end 2015-early 2016, there were several instances of denial of entry by the US immigration authorities to Indian students holding valid visas. According to the US Government, these students had presented information to the Border Patrol agent which was inconsistent with their visa status.

(b) Government of India strongly took up the matter with the US Government and emphasized the need for US authorities to honour the visas issued by their own Embassy/Consulates. Government is closely engaged with the US Government with the aim of ensuring that no bonafide students were denied entry. The Government also issued advisories for the students seeking admission in the US educational institutions to do due diligence to ensure that the institutions to which they were

seeking admission had proper authorization and capacities. The students were also advised to carry all required documentation. Government was also in contact with the concerned State Governments on the issue.

(c) According to the US Government, in April 2016, the US authorities had arrested brokers, recruiters, and employers, from across the United States, who had allegedly conspired with foreign nationals to fraudulently obtain student and foreign worker visas for the latter through a "pay to stay" New Jersey college viz. University of Northern New Jersey (UNNJ). This "college" was created and operated as part of the US Homeland Security Investigation's (HSI) enforcement action in this matter. The investigation found that over 1000 students, 306 of whom were Indian nationals, had previously entered the US on F-1 non-immigrant student visas to attend other accredited schools and were found to have knowingly participated in visa fraud by enrolling at UNNJ for the sole purpose of illegally obtaining and/or maintaining their F-1 non-immigrant status. It is understood that these students were later notified about termination of their enrollment in the UNNJ. The US authorities had further informed that any student thus terminated, who chose not to file for reinstatement or had his/her reinstatement application denied, must depart the country immediately. The Government of India has emphasized to the US Government that due process must be followed and there should be no harassment and injustice.

(d) and (e) No instance of discriminatory treatment towards Indian students by the US Authorities has come to notice of the Government.

Diplomatic efforts for NSG membership

427. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the points discussed in the Seoul meeting of Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG);
- (b) whether India's plea of NSG membership was raised in the meeting and if so, the outcome thereof; and
- (c) what diplomatic efforts were made for the membership of NSG group, with details; and
- (d) why the efforts have failed and lessons learnt from them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS [GENERAL (RETD.) V. K. SINGH]: (a) and (b) India is not a member of the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG) and, therefore, not privy to the Group's internal discussions. However, it is understood that at the recent Plenary in Seoul on June 23-24, 2016, there was a long discussion on the issue of membership. An overwhelming number of