

Agency (HESA), the number of Indian students decreased from 40,470 in 2009-10 to 16,559 in 2016-17. In 2017-18, the number of Indian students increased to 19,750. The reasons attributed mainly for the earlier decrease include withdrawal of post-study work visa, tightening of English Proficiency Requirements, comparatively costlier higher education in the UK, opening up of new opportunities in countries like Canada, Australia and New Zealand as well as the opening of new global universities in India which have started attracting Indian students who used to go abroad.

(b) Issues relating to Indian students have been consistently raised by India in all bilateral discussions with the UK at various levels. The issue had been taken up by the MEA with the UK Home Office in a meeting held on 16 January, 2019. On 10 May, 2019, Foreign Secretary raised it with his British counterpart during India-UK Foreign Office Consultations. The issue was raised again at the meeting between Secretary (CPV&OIA), MEA and the Second Permanent Secretary in the UK Home Office on 14 May, 2019.

#### **Fake agencies sending Indians abroad**

†656. SHRIMATI KANTA KARDAM: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that many fake agencies are functioning in the country which are sending the workers for overseas employment where they are getting trapped;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the details of steps proposed to be taken by Government to put a check on the activities of such agencies; and

(c) whether any Committee has been constituted or is proposed to be constituted for monitoring such agencies and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI V. MURALEEDHARAN): (a) to (c) Complaints are received from time to time by the Ministry of External Affairs from and/or on behalf of Indian emigrants who are dispatched for overseas employment fraudulently by illegal agents/fake agencies and are thereafter subjected to cheating, denial of jobs, poor working conditions, etc. The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) has robust grievance redressal mechanisms, including online MADAD and e-Migrate portals for registration of grievances of emigrants who have been subjected to cheating.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

On receipt of details of such illegal agents, the complaints are forwarded to the concerned State/UT Government and Police authorities urging them to apprehend illegal agents and prosecute them, since Law and Order is a State subject. On receiving request from the concerned State Government/Police authorities, Prosecution Sanctions are issued expeditiously by the Ministry of External Affairs, enabling them to initiate legal action against the accused illegal agents. Wherever required, such complaints are also referred to Missions/Posts abroad for urgent follow up with local sponsors and/or Government, and rendering all possible assistance to the aggrieved persons providing relief/rescue.

As per the available records, the number of complaints against unregistered agents received and referred to the State Government/Police during the period of 2017 to May, 2019

Year	No. of Complaints received	Cases referred to State Governments for action	Prosecution Sanction sought by State Government	Prosecution Sanction issued by Ministry of External Affairs
2017	446	446	30	30
2018	350	350	15	15
2019#	214	214	22	22

# (up to 31st May, 2019)

The office of Protector General of Emigrants and its ten offices in India take urgent necessary action on every case of a fake recruitment agency for overseas employment of workers and follow up actively with the concerned authorities. Other mechanisms for monitoring such agencies and taking action against them have also been instituted, including various outreach programmes with the States.

#### **Improper behaviour with guests for Iftar Party at Islamabad**

†657. SHRI VISHAMBHAR PRASAD NISHAD:

CH. SUKHRAM SINGH YADAV:

SHRIMATI CHHAYA VERMA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Pakistani agencies behaved disrespectfully with the guests invited for the Iftar Party organised by the Indian High Commission at Islamabad on June 01, 2019 and the guests were forcefully stopped to attend the party; and

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