

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF FINANCE
DEPARTMENT OF FINANCIAL SERVICES
RAJYA SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO. *174

TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 2nd AUGUST, 2022, SRAVANA 11, 1944 (SAKA)

WAIVING EDUCATIONAL LOANS

***174. Dr. Kirodi Lal Meena:**

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether many students returning from Ukraine have taken education loan in India;
- (b) if so, whether Government has any data of such loans sanctioned to students returning from Ukraine, if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government has made any assessment regarding the impact of this crisis on these students, if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether Government proposes to waive loans or deduct interest of loans for those students returning from war-ravaged Ukraine; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof, and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

FINANCE MINISTER (SMT. NIRMALA SITHARAMAN)

(a) to (e): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (A) TO (E) OF RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NUMBER *174 FOR 02 AUGUST, 2022 REGARDING
WAIVING EDUCATIONAL LOANS BY DR. KIRODI LAL MEENA**

According to the Ministry of External Affairs, around 22,500 Indian nationals, mostly students, have returned from Ukraine to India safely since 1st February 2022. Government provided all possible assistance in terms of shelter, food and medical attention where required, to displaced Indians who crossed over to the western neighbours of Ukraine, and they were eventually evacuated through flights operated under Operation Ganga. Welfare of Indians abroad, including students, is a top priority for the Government of India.

As per information received from the Indian Banks' Association, as on 30th June 2022, 1,387 students had taken education loan for study in Ukraine with outstanding balance of Rs. 133.38 crore.

There is no proposal under consideration of the Government of India to waive loans or deduct interest of loans for those students returning from war-ravaged Ukraine. In a deregulated credit environment, banks have been given the flexibility to restructure stressed accounts as per their commercial assessment of the viability aspects, in terms of their Board approved policy subject to prudential norms of RBI. Banks would be better placed to decide about resolution of such stressed educational loan accounts on a cases to case basis.
