

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO- 1194
ANSWERED ON- 05/12/2024

ATTACK ON INDIAN STUDENTS IN FOREIGN COUNTRIES

1194. DR. M. THAMBIDURAI

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :-

- (a) whether the Government is aware that Indian students are being frequently attacked in foreign countries;
- (b) if so, the details of the number of students attacked and died abroad, during the last five years, year-wise, country-wise; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to take up such incidents with foreign countries so that such incidents are stopped forthwith?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
(SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH)

- (a & b) Government of India maintains data of attacks on Indian Students and their deaths in foreign countries. The information is attached at Annexure 'A'.
- (c) The Government of India accords top most priority to ensuring the safety and security of Indian students abroad. Indian Missions/Posts abroad maintain regular contact with Indian students enrolled in Universities abroad. New Indian students, enrolled in foreign Universities, are invited to participate in Welcome Ceremonies organised by Indian Missions/Posts abroad. They also organise Orientation Programmes for Indian students abroad and brief them on challenges and threats, if any, that they may confront during their stay in the foreign lands and different mechanisms for taking counter-active measures. Embassy officials also visit foreign Universities and Educational Institutions in their respective countries of accreditation regularly to interact with Indian students and Indian Students' Associations.

Indian Missions/Posts abroad also encourage Indian students travelling abroad for higher studies to register on the MADAD Portal so that their grievances and outstanding issues can be addressed in a time bound manner. They also advise them to remain connected on a regular basis and make all possible efforts to respond to the outstanding issues faced by them on a priority basis.

The grievances of the Indian students abroad are responded to almost on a real time basis through telephone calls, walk-ins, emails, social media, 24x7 emergency helplines, open houses and the MADAD Portal. Any complaint received from the Indian students abroad are taken up with the concerned University/Institution and the host Government, as the case may be, for requisite action. Cases of untoward incidents against them are immediately taken up by the Indian Missions/Posts abroad with the concerned authorities of the host country to ensure that they are properly investigated and the perpetrators are punished. During emergencies or crisis situations, Indian Missions/Posts abroad pro-actively help distressed/stranded Indian students overseas by providing them food, shelter, medicines and ensure their return/evacuation to India as soon as possible.

Most recently, stranded Indian students were evacuated to India through the Vande Bharat Mission, Operation Ganga (Ukraine) and Operation Ajay (Israel) from countries around the world. The return of many Indian students from Bangladesh was also facilitated by the High Commission of India.

Country wise inputs received on attacks on Indian Students and death of Indian students due to these attacks from January 2019 to October 2024

S.No.	Country	Number of attacks on Indian students abroad	Number of Deaths due to attacks
1.	Australia	4	1
2.	Canada	9	9
3.	UK	12	1
4.	USA	7	7
5.	Italy	3	0
6.	Russia	14	0
7.	Ireland	6	0
8.	Iran	1	0
9.	China	1	1
10.	Kyrgyzstan	1	1
Total		58	20
