



Ministry of External Affairs
Government of India

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QUESTION NO.2002 DECREASING INDIAN STUDENTS IN USA AND UK

August 04, 2016

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2002
TO BE ANSWERED ON 04.08.2016

DECREASING INDIAN STUDENTS IN USA AND UK

2002. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the number of Indian students studying in United States of America (USA) and United Kingdom (UK) has decreased considerably in recent years, if so, the details for the last three years;
- (b) whether stringent visa rules by USA and UK have adversely affected the Indian students aspiring to study in USA and UK, if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) whether Government has taken up the matter with USA and UK and if so, the outcome thereof?

ANSWER
THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
[GEN. (DR) V. K. SINGH (RETD)]

(a) While the number of Indian students studying in USA has not decreased in recent years, there has been a perceptible decrease in the number of Indian students studying in the UK. The data relating to the number of Indian students in the USA and UK in the last three years is as follows:

Name of the Country	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15
U.S.A.	1,00,270	96,754	1,02,673	1,32,888

U.K.	29,900	22,385	19,750	18,320
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*Source: 1. 'Open Doors Report' – Published by International Institute of Education with the support of U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs. 2. U.K. Higher Education International Unit

(b) & (c) In the UK, as per the new rules for student visas, stay for only a maximum of 04 additional months is granted at the end of courses of duration of one year or more. For courses ranging from 6 months to 12 months, stay for only two additional months is granted. Recently, the UK Home Office launched a new Tier 4 pilot visa scheme relaxing visa norms for overseas students applying for a Masters course in 4 select universities. Under this scheme students would be allowed to stay in the country for upto 6 months after completing their course. Students desiring to stay on in the UK for work after completion of their courses have to follow other visa schemes such as Tier 1 (Graduate Entrepreneur) or Tier 2 (employment), for which a minimum annual salary of GBP 20,800/- applies.

In the context of the changed post-study work visa rules and the difficulties faced by Indian students to find jobs with salaries that would qualify them to remain in the UK after completing their studies, the attractiveness of UK as an education destination for Indian students appears to be declining. The Government has been engaging the UK Government on this issue on various occasions since 2013, including during high level bilateral visits. Our High Commissioner in the UK has also raised the issue with the UK Minister for Universities, Science and Cities and the UK Minister for Security and Immigration and has urged them to explore options to refine the post-study work visa scheme, so as to continue to attract Indian students.



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