

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2472**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 24.03.2022

**MEDICAL STUDENTS IN CHINA**

2472. DR. AMAR PATNAIK:

Will the Minister of **External Affairs** be pleased to state:

- (a) the total number of students that were evacuated or returned to India after the outbreak of COVID-19 in China;
- (b) the total number of students that are presently studying medicine in Chinese Universities;
- (c) the total number of students that have returned to China to continue their education in medicine since the outbreak of COVID-19;
- (d) the total number of Chinese Universities that have been providing online courses to enroll medical students that are presently in India;
- (e) whether Government has taken any measures to ensure that these students are able to receive quality education and complete their degree; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
[SHRI V. MURALEEDHARAN]

(a) to (f) The Government of People's Republic of China had restricted travel to China by suspending visa and residence permits from 27 March 2020 due to the outbreak of COVID-19. As per information available, approximately 20,000 Indian students were enrolled in various courses including clinical medicine courses in different Chinese universities at that time. A large number of them returned to India when all universities in China had closed down. This also included a total of 820 students, who were evacuated through three evacuation flights and Vande Bharat Mission (VBM) flights in 2020.

The universities in China have not reopened fully as on date. In the meantime, Chinese government has advised Chinese Universities to maintain contact with foreign students and continue classes online.

The Government has been taking up the matter of return of Indian students with the Chinese authorities both in New Delhi and through our Embassy in China. Regular updates have been given in this regard by the Embassy to the Indian students.

The Ministry of External Affairs had taken up the matter with the National Medical Commission and Ministry of Health and Family Welfare to explore options to address the concerns of the affected students. National Medical Commission has issued a circular on 04

March 2022 stating that in view of the large number of Indian medical students in foreign institutions who have not been able to complete internship, National Medical Commission has decided to accept applications from such affected foreign medical graduates to complete the remaining part of internship in India.

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