

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3121

ANSWERED ON:23.03.2005

EU SCHOLARSHIPS TO INDIAN STUDENTS

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Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the number of Indian students studying in European countries including Russia is increasing constantly;
- (b) if so, the total number of Indian students who went to the European as well as other countries during the academic years 2003-2004 and 2004-2005, State-wise and country-wise;
- (c) whether the European Union has set a budget of 33 million Euros for 900 post graduate Indian students to study in Europe;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether the Government shall have any say in the selection of these students;
- (f) if not, the criteria laid down for the selection of students for EU scholarships; and
- (g) the names of those countries which provide visa to Indian students for their studies there?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (RAO INDERJIT SINGH)

(a & b) As students studying abroad on self-finance programmes are not required to register with Government of India, the data with regard to the total number of Indian students studying in European countries, including in Russia, is not available.

(c, d, e & f) The European Union has earmarked a budget of Euro 33 million under the India Window of the Erasmus Mundus Scholarship Programme for the period 2005-2009. It is projected that 920 students would be able to avail of this facility for undertaking higher studies at selected European institutions/universities of repute. Government of India and the European Commission are expected to negotiate the Financing Agreement for this Programme, which would, inter-alia, set out modalities for selection of students.

(g) All countries which offer and award scholarships under bilateral programmes facilitate grant of visa to the selected students.