Press Release
07-03-2024

**MP Dr. Vikram Sahney takes up the issue of Indian Stranded Youth in Russia with Dr. S Jaishankar**
Dr. Vikramjit Singh Sahney, Member of Parliament, Rajya Sabha from Punjab, has issued an urgent plea to Ambassador of India to The Russian Federation H.E. Pawan Kapoor and Minister of External Affairs Dr. S. Jaishankar urging immediate action to repatriate seven Indian youth stranded in Russia.

Dr. Sahney said that he has also reached out to the Russian Ambassador to India H.E. Mr. Denis Alipov and H.E. Mr. Roman Babushkin, Deputy chief of Mission in India to take up the matter with their counterparts for the swift release of youth.

Dr. Sahney also stated that he is in constant contact with the distressed families and have obtained active phone numbers of the stranded youth which he has shared with the Indian embassy officials so that they can facilitate direct assistance to the youth for their repatriation.

Dr. Sahney informed that on 27th December, 2023, seven Indian youth, five of whom are from Punjab, travelled to Russia on visit visas. Due to an unfortunate misunderstanding, they inadvertently entered Belarus from Russia by road, lacking the necessary visas, resulting in their apprehension by Russian authorities.

The distressed youth have reportedly been coerced by Russian police into signing an agreement to serve in the Russian Army as helpers for one year, under threat of facing imprisonment for up to ten years for their unauthorized entry into Belarus. This dire situation has plunged the individuals and their families into profound distress and desperation.

