

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2013

ANSWERED ON:08.03.2000

ASYLUM TO KARMAPA

AMAR ROY PRADHAN;ANANT GANGARAM GEETE;MADAN LAL KHURANA;MADHAVRAO SCINDIA;RAGHUNATH JHA;SHANKERSINH VAGHELA;SUKDEO PASWAN;SURESH KURUP;VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN

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

(a) whether the Government have obtained the necessary information about the flight of the 17th Karmapa alongwith his team from Tibet to Dharamsala in January, 2000;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, whether the mystery still surrounds the reported flight of Karmapa Lama from Tibet and his proposed visit to Rumtek monastery in Sikkim;

(d) whether Dalai Lama has requested the Union Government to give asylum to Karmapa;

(e) if so, whether the Government have also received any request from some organisations to provide political asylum to Karmapa alongwith his associates;

(f) if so, whether the Government have received any protest from China and some organisations against providing asylum to Karmapa; (g) whether the Government propose to give him the same status as had been given to Dalai Lama; (h) if so, the action taken by the Government on this issue; and (i) if not, the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH)

(a) -

(i): Lama Ugyen Thinley Dorji, recognised by his supporters as the 17th Gyalwa Karmapa, arrived in Dharamsala from Tibet on January 5, 2000. The Chinese side has been requested to share with us details regarding the circumstances of his departure from Tibet for India. The official Chinese position on Lama Ugyen Thinley Dorji's arrival in India is that Lama Ugyen Thinley Dorji had gone abroad to 'get the musical instruments' of the Buddhist rituals and the 'black hat' used by previous Karmapas. His Holiness the Dalai Lama has publicly stated that Lama Ugyen Thinley Dorji would like to stay in India and study. Representations have been received from his supporters regarding his continued stay in India. Representations have also been received against his continued stay in India. The matter requires careful consideration taking into account all relevant factors.