

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4633
ANSWERED ON:25.08.2010
POLITICAL ASYLUM
Reddy Shri Komatireddy Raj Gopal

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it has not been found possible to grant political asylum to an American citizen residing in India and practicing Gandhian ideals;
- (b) if so, the details for this regard; and
- (c) the present position thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI S.M. KRISHNA)

- (a) Yes. Mr. Jeff Knaebel, a US citizen had sought political asylum in India but it was not found possible to grant him the same.
- (b) & (c) Mr. Jeff Knaebel had filed a Writ Petition (Civil) No. 195 of 2010 before the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India seeking asylum in India. However, he had not mentioned the reasons justifying his prayer for grant of asylum in India. He was also found to have violated the rules and regulations applicable to foreigners desiring to reside in India, i.e. possession of a valid passport and visa for stay in India. He also failed to establish recognized reasons, such as persecution in country of his origin, for seeking asylum in India. The Hon'ble Supreme Court has upheld the stand taken by Government in refusing him asylum.