

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1129
ANSWERED ON:11.12.2013
ASYLUM TO FOREIGNERS
Pandurang Shri Munde Gopinathrao

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of asylum provided by the country to foreigners during the last three years, country-wise;
- (b) whether American citizen Edward Snowden had sought asylum in India;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether India has denied asylum to him; and
- (e) if not, the reasons behind the denial of asylum to Snowden?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI PRENEET KAUR)

- (a) India has not granted asylum to foreign nationals in the last three years.
- (b) to (e) Mr. Edward Snowden wrote to our Embassy in the Russian Federation on 30 June 2013 requesting political asylum on human rights grounds. In not accepting Mr. Snowden's request for political asylum, Government was guided by a number of considerations, including the nature of his request and the legal implications of this issue. It was evident at that stage, that there was no specific clarity on Mr. Snowden's concerns regarding his apprehensions to his safety and security. Further, since it was unclear at that stage what the charges were against Mr. Snowden in the United States of America (his country of origin) and his legal status in the Russian Federation, where he was at the time of requesting political asylum, it was not possible to make a definitive determination on the legal implications for India if his request were entertained. Government therefore decided that there were insufficient reasons for India to offer any form of shelter or refuge to Mr. Snowden.