

peaceful, friendly and cooperative ties with Pakistan, in an environment free from terror and violence.

Following the recent elections in Pakistan, Prime Minister spoke to the newly elected Prime Minister of Pakistan on May 12, 2013 congratulating him for his victory, and welcoming the Pakistan Prime Minister's publicly articulated commitment to a relationship between India and Pakistan defined by peace, friendship and cooperation. Prime Minister's Special Envoy also visited Lahore on May 27, 2013 to convey Prime Minister's message personally and used the opportunity to discuss ways to take the dialogue process forward. Subsequently Prime Minister also received the Pakistan Prime Minister's Special Envoy in New Delhi on July 5, 2013.

Effort to become full member of NSG

512. SHRI C. M. RAMESH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is taking serious and sincere efforts to become full member of the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG);
- (b) if so, the details of the steps taken by Government in this regard; and
- (c) whether Government would disclose the details of the steps taken in the last plenary session of NSG held in Seattle, USA?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED): (a) to (c) The Government has expressed its interest in the full membership of Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG). United States, France, Russia and UK are among the countries which have publicly stated their support for India's membership of NSG. India has been in contact with NSG members. India's membership of the NSG is subject to a decision by the NSG members. NSG deliberations are confidential and its decisions are taken by consensus. This matter also pertains to India's relations with foreign countries and it is not in public interest to provide details of confidential discussions with foreign countries.

Asylum to foreign citizens

†513. SHRI THAAWAR CHAND GEHLOT:

SHRI M. P. ACHUTHAN:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(a) the details of foreign citizens who have been provided asylum by Government during the last five years, country-wise;

(b) whether US citizen Edward Snowden has requested India for asylum here, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reasons for not providing asylum to him by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED): (a) India has not granted asylum to foreign nationals in the last five years.

(b) and (c) 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.

China building dam on Brahmaputra

514. SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that China is building twenty-six hydropower dams on reaches of the Brahmaputra, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Government has assessed the decline in water coming to India due to these projects, if so, the details thereof and the measures taken by Government; and

(c) whether Government has had an agreement with China on the Water sharing and dams constructed along the Brahmaputra, if so, the details thereof and the outcome thereof?