

Indian asylum seekers in foreign jails

971. DR. SANJAY SINH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that over thousands of asylum seekers from India have been branded as illegal migrants and are in jails of different countries;

(b) if so, the details of Indians incarcerated in different countries as illegal migrants, country-wise;

(c) the action taken by Government with its counterparts to take back these Indians; and

(d) if no action has been taken, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS [GENERAL (RETD.) V.K. SINGH]: (a) and (b) From Indian Missions abroad, we do receive reports about Indian/nationals seeking asylum. When their requests for asylum are turned down, for those countries, where such persons are present, they become illegal migrants. The information gathered by our various Missions on asylum seekers from India in foreign countries shows approx. 8000 in Germany but not in jail, 359 in USA in detention, 2 in Denmark in jail, 2 in Brazil in jail and 1 in Finland but not in jail.

However, accurate data regarding the number of asylum applications and the actual number of people granted asylum as well as Indians in their jails is not available, as some foreign governments cite inability to share such data due to privacy and data protection laws.

(c) The Government of India believes that asylum seekers, while applying for asylum to a foreign government, denigrate the system in India to obtain personal gains despite the fact that India, being a democratic country, provides avenues for everyone to redress their grievances lawfully. Our Missions and Posts abroad regularly liaise with the local authorities and upon verification of their identity and nationality extend necessary consular assistance and issue necessary travel document to facilitate their return to India.

(d) Does not arise.

Request to deport Vijay Mallya

972. SHRI KANAKAMEDALA RAVINDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government had earlier requested United Kingdom to deport Vijay Mallya;

- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether United Kingdom has acceded the request of Government of India regarding the deporting;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS [GENERAL (RETD.) V.K. SINGH]: (a) to (d) A formal extradition request was handed by Ministry of External Affairs to the British High Commission in New Delhi on 9 February 2017. A copy of the same was also sent to the High Commission of India (HCI), London for follow up. A letter was sent to the UK Central Authority (UKCA) by the HCI, London on 9 February 2017. After certification by the Secretary of State, Home Office UK, Mr. Vijay Mallya was arrested and produced before the Westminster Magistrate's Court on 18 April 2017. At the conclusion of the hearing, he was granted conditional bail.

The matter is currently *sub judice* at the Westminster Magistrate's Court in London, where hearing for Final Arguments on Closing Submissions of the Case has been fixed on 31 July 2018.

From the developments so far, it can be concluded that the process for extradition of Mr. Vijay Mallya has progressed/is progressing as per the India-UK Extradition Treaty. Whether the person will be extradited to India or not, will depend on the Court's decision, where the process is awaiting conclusion.

- (e) Does not arise.

973. [The question was withdrawn.]

Restriction on Indian IT professionals in Singapore and other countries

974. SHRI K. C. RAMAMURTHY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of IT professionals from India in Singapore;
- (b) whether it is a fact that Singapore has started restricting Indian IT professionals;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and how Singapore's contention is justified since it is in violation of Free Trade Agreement (FTA); and