

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO.91
TO BE ANSWERED ON 09.03.2017

**DECLASSIFICATION OF FILES RELATING TO NETAJI SUBHAS CHANDRA
BOSE**

*91. SHRI SUKHENDU SEKHAR ROY:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has requested countries like Russia, United States of America, United Kingdom, Japan, Myanmar and Singapore for declassification of files relating to Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose; if any lying there;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER
THE MINISTER FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
(SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ)

(a) to (c) A statement is laid on the table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) to (c) OF THE RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 91 REGARDING “DECLASSIFICATION OF FILES RELATING TO NETAJI SUBHAS CHANDRA BOSE” FOR ANSWER ON 09.03.2017

(a) to (c) Yes Sir. Ministry of External Affairs had made request to Foreign Governments to declassify Netaji files if they have any. The responses received from various Governments in this regard are as follows:-

- (i) **Government of Russian Federation:** They have informed that consequent upon receiving the fresh request of the Indian Government, a fresh search was conducted and no documents pertaining to Netaji Bose's death were found in the Russian Archives.
- (ii) **Government of the United States of America:** The U.S. National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) have informed that locating documentation relating to Netaji will require extensive search through the records of a number of different U.S. Government agencies. Locating documents of interest to us will require review of a large number of files from various agencies and since these are widely dispersed, NARA cannot undertake the extensive research necessary to examine the records.
- (iii) **Government of the U.K. :** Most material on Netaji is already available at the websites of The National Archives and the British Library. There are about 62 files available in public domain. Copies of these files can be obtained costing each copy £ 8.24 and would require 24 days to obtain the copies after formally placing the order.
- (iv) **Government of Japan:** Govt. of Japan has declassified two files relating to Netaji. These files have been transferred to their Archives and can be accessed by general public as per their procedure. Regarding any other documents that Japanese Government may have, they have conveyed that the documents are declassified as per their policies after prescribed time period based on an internal review mechanism.

2. We have also approached Governments of Myanmar and Singapore and their replies are awaited.
