

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1372
TO BE ANSWERED ON 25.07.2018

ASYLUM SEEKERS

1372. SHRI DIBYENDU ADHIKARI:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether over thousands of asylum seekers from India have been branded as illegal migrants and are in jails of different countries;
- (b) if so, the country-wise Indians incarcerated in different countries as illegal migrants; and
- (c) the action taken by the Government to bring them back to the country?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
[GEN. (DR) V. K. SINGH (RETD)]

(a) & (b) As per information available in the Ministry, as of 16.07.2018, approximately 8363 Indian nationals who are illegal and have sought asylum in foreign countries (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 are 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 possible consular assistance and issues necessary travel document to facilitate their return to India.
