

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1092
ANSWERED ON:01.03.2000
RESEARCH ON NETAJI SUBHASH CHANDRA BOSE
MOINUL HASSAN AHAMED

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government have requested the Russian Government to open the archives to Indian scholars researching on Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose;
- (b) if so, whether the Government have received any response from the Russian Government in this regard;
- (c) whether some of the documents concerning Netaji kept under the custody of the U.K. Government are still denied access to scholars;
- (d) if so, whether the Government have moved the concerned authorities to open up such papers to those who would like to go through these papers; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH)

(a) & (b) Attempts have been made at the official level to find out from the Russian Government whether there were documents pertaining to Netaji available with them. In response we were informed by the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs on January 8, 1992 that 'according to the data in the Central and Republican Archives, no information whatsoever is available on the stay of former President of the Indian National Congress, Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose in the Soviet Union in 1945 and in subsequent years'. Thereafter, on September 27, 1995, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation informed that 'as a result of the investigations carried out at the Central Archival Collection of the Federal Security Service of Russia and the Russian Centre for Retention and Perusal of documents on Modern History, no information whatsoever has come to light on the stay of Subhash Chandra Bose on the territory of the former USSR in 1945 and in subsequent years'. The State Archive Service of the Russian Federation informed on August 4, 1997 that 'the Centre for Preservation of Historical Documental Collection does not have any information on Subhash Chandra Bose'.

(c), (d) & (e) The British Government have informed that 'virtually all British records relating to Subhash Chandra Bose, which are more than 30 years old, have been released at the Public Record Office and at the British Library'. The British Government have further informed that 'the only papers which remain closed are:

- (i) a few papers in the files of the Intelligence and Security Agencies that do not add to the substantive account in the Indian Political Intelligence organisation collection; and
- (ii) one paper from the Indian Political Intelligence organisation collection which is retained on grounds of continuing personal sensitivity'.