



RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT
RAJYA SABHA

Member of Standing Committee on Finance
Member of Consultative Committee on Finance
Member of Parliamentary Forum on Youth
Co-Chairman, Vigilance & Monitoring Committee, Bangalore Urban District
Vice Chairman, National Military Memorial Management Trust, Bangalore

21 March, 2013

Dear Shri Ananth Kumar

Sub: Request to invite Dr. Lobsang Sangay, Prime Minister of the Tibetan Government in exile, Tibet to depose before the Standing Committee on External Affairs

India has had a long standing relationship with Tibet and its people. Our country had offered political asylum to the 14th Dalai Lama in 1959, who still leads the Tibetan community as their spiritual leader.

Our country has always shown care and compassion for the cause of the Tibetan people. In fact, my state Karnataka created the first ever Tibetan exile settlement way back in 1960, and today, is home to one of the largest Tibetan refugee population in India. As the world's largest democracy, we also have a moral responsibility to the Tibetan people.

The Tibetan youth turn to self-immolation in their bid to draw the attention of the international community towards their suffering. The lack of freedom drives the Tibetan youth to take such drastic steps. Over 100 Tibetan youth have self-immolated to demand the return of His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama and freedom in Tibet - the last one being on Wednesday, March 13, when Kunchok Wangmo lost her life to this painful form of protest.

Being the largest democracy, ours is an institution that many other countries look up to. Therefore, I request that Dr. Lobsang Sangay, the Tibetan Sikyong, i.e., the democratically elected Prime Minister of the Tibetan Government in exile, be invited to depose before the Standing Committee on External Affairs, on Tibet. This will go a long way in supporting Tibet and spreading His Holiness The 14th Dalai Lama's message of peace, tolerance and harmony for all the peoples of the world.

Yours Sincerely,


RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR

Shri Ananth Kumar
Hon'ble Member of Parliament and
Chairman – Standing Committee on External Affairs
28, Tughlak Crescent
New Delhi