



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

Honble Speaker,

19 March, 2013

Sub. : Request to invite His Holiness The 14th Dalai Lama to address the Parliament

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 - a painful form of protest - 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.

Being the largest democracy, our Parliament is an institution that many other countries look up to. Therefore, I request that His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama be invited to address our Parliament, and thereby, also address the people of our nation. This will go a long way in supporting and spreading His Holiness' message of peace, tolerance and harmony for all the peoples of the world.

Yours Sincerely,

RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR

Smt. Meira Kumar
Hon'ble Speaker – Lok Sabha
Government of India
New Delhi