

Hoisting of flags by elected representatives

405. SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Maharashtra has sought guidelines regarding the long established practice/protocol for hoisting of National Flag on occasions like Independence Day, Republic Day, and other National functions, only by Government functionaries like Commissioners, Collectors, SDOs, Tehsildars, for henceforth performing flag hoisting by peoples' elected representatives like MPs, MLAs, Zilla Parishad Chairman, Presidents of Panchayat Samitis, Sarpanches, etc., so as to follow the underlaying principles of democratic polity; and

(b) if so, whether any guidelines have been issued, so that elected representatives are not just empowered to legislate laws but also they should look to be enjoying precedence over the bureaucrats during 'National-days' formal celebrations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) No such proposal has been received from the State Govt. of Maharashtra. However, in reference to a letter from Shri Vijay Jawaharal Darda, Hon'ble Member of Parliament, the State Government of Maharashtra has been asked to send the proposal, if any.

(b) Does not arise.

Phone and Internet surveillance

406. SHRI MOHAMMED ADEEB: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Phone and Internet surveillance is being done by certain agencies in the country;

(b) if so, the details in this regard; and

(c) whether Government would issue a White Paper on such activities?