

dings. In view of the general policy to restrict display of the National Flag, it was clarified to the States in 1958 that the National Flag need not be flown on the Office of the State Inspector General of Police. On receipt of some queries, the position was reiterated in January, 1975 and April, 1976 and State Governments/Union Territories were advised to discontinue the display of the National Flag on the Offices of the Inspector General of Police and the Offices of Commissioners of Police.

National Flag used to be flown on Old Council Hall Building in Bombay where the Maharashtra Legislative Secretariat was housed. Maharashtra Legislative Secretariat has since been shifted to the New Council Hall Building. The Old Council Hall Building is now houses the Office of the Director General and Inspector General of Police. The State Government had approached the Government of India to allow them to continue flying the National Flag on this building on the ground of its historical importance. The Government have not agreed to the request and the State Government have been advised to discontinue the practice of flying the National Flag on the Old Council Hall Building.

The Government have no information if in any other State or Union Territory, the Office of the IGP is regularly flying the National Flag.

#### Rejection of Invitation by Akali Dal for Solution of Punjab Tangle

610. SHRI B.V. DESAI : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Akali Dal has rejected the invitation from the Union Home Minister for talks to solve the Punjab tangle;

(b) if so, whether this was conveyed through the letter sent by the Akali Dal President to the Home Minister;

(c) if so, the main points on which the Akali Dal has rejected the invitation of Government;

(d) whether, Union Government has conveyed its willingness to set up tribunals to refer the Ravi-Beas Water Dispute between Punjab and Haryana to be appointed under the Inter-State Water Dispute Act, 1956;

(e) whether it has been proposed that the proposed tribunals can decide afresh the allocation between the two States; and

(f) if so, whether the Akali Dal has also not so far intimated their willingness to this proposal ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI NIHAR RANJAN LASKAR) :

(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Akali Dal has not favourably responded to the recent invitation of the Home Minister for resumption of negotiation

(c) President, Shiromani Akali Dal in his last letter dated 21.6.83 *inter-alia* replied that he has come to the conclusion that Government was not serious about the demands of Akali Dal about the solution of Punjab issue.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. This has been announced by the Home Minister in his statement dated 22.6.1983.

(f) Yes, Sir. Government have not so far received any communication from Shiromani Akali Dal intimating their willingness to this proposal.

#### Fire in Gopala Towers, Delhi

611. SHRI B.V. DESAI :  
SHRI TARIQ ANWAR :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the devastating fire which broke out in the 14-storey Gopala Towers in Rajendra Place in New Delhi during the month