

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4557
ANSWERED ON:07.12.2010
ILLEGAL SURVEY BY FOREIGN AGENCIES
Dhanaplan Shri K. P.

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has received any complaint regarding illegal surveys conducted by foreign agencies targeting one particular religion in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government in this regard;
- (c) whether the Government has formulated any regulation for conducting surveys in the country by any external agency;
- (d) if so, the details thereof, and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI AJAY MAKEN)

(a): Yes. Government has received a complaint from the District Committee of a political party regarding the Socio-Economic survey at Attakulangara Karimadom Colony, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala by Princeton Survey Research Associates International.

(b): The Princeton Survey Research Associates International based in Washington DC, USA were reportedly conducting survey and providing the data for clients in USA and other countries. Recently, they are learnt to have entrusted M/s. Taylor Nelson Sofres which has an office in Cochin to conduct the socio -economic survey in question in various parts of Kerala State. As part of the survey one Simi, Selma, Meena and Sonia belonging to Ernakulam came to Attakulangara Karimadom Colony, a place in Thiruvananthapuram and distributed a questionnaire among 130 Muslim houses. The questionnaire contained nearly 100 pages including data on how many times they are praying going to Mosque, whether attending Fast during Ramzan season, whether they would like to go to any other country if not able to live in India, whether they are wearing Burqa, when going outside the house, whether it is demanded by Islamic law etc. When the local people objected and created a scene, police reached the scene and detained the young women who had come to collect data. A case was registered as Crime 1041/2010/u/s153(B) and 43 IPC.

(c) to (e): A foreigner who desires to undertake research in India should apply to the Indian Mission/Post concerned giving the subject of the research project, details and places to be visited, previous visits, whether the scholar has secured admission to a recognized or reputed institution and evidence of financial resources. Prior security clearance from MHA is needed in case of scholars from Prior Reference Category Countries or if the research works involve visit to Restricted or Protected Areas in India or areas affected by terrorism, militancy and extremism etc. or involves politically and socially sensitive subject. If any survey, whether being conducted by Indians or foreigners causes disharmony among different religions in India or otherwise violates any law, it would invite appropriate prosecution under the relevant criminal law.