

(c) whether Government are aware of the serious situation caused by the absence of such a Register in the country, especially in the North East Region;

(d) whether the Chief Election Commissioner of India submitted a proposal for the preparation of such a National Register to the Home Ministry in 1977; and

(e) if so, what action the Home Ministry have taken on the recommendations of the Chief Election Commissioner of India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA):

(a) The National Register of Citizens which was first introduced in the country after Census of India, 1951, was not properly maintained and was discontinued.

(b) It is not considered feasible to compile one now.

(c) Government do not think that the situation caused especially in the North-East Region has been caused by the absence of such a Register.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) In view of (d) above, the question does not arise.

Indigenous aero-engine for military aircraft

1132. DR. RAFIQ ZAKARIA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) what progress, if any, has been made in regard to the designing of a wholly indigenous aero-engine for military aircraft;

(b) by when it will be available in large numbers to enable the country to be self-reliant in production of defence aircraft; and

(c) how long our dependence on foreign designs, equipment and know-how will last?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE AND DEPARTMENTS UNDER THE CHARGE OF PRIME MINISTER (SHRI C. P. N. SINGH): (a) A wholly indigenously designed aero-engine for military aircraft, based on a new concept, called GTX Engine, is under development at Gas Turbine Research Establishment (GTRE), Bangalore. The test trials are in progress.

(b) and (c) It is difficult to indicate the time by which the country will become wholly self-reliant in production of defence aircraft and the need for foreign know-how would completely cease.

Advisory Council in States under President's rule

1133. DR. RAFIQ ZAKARIA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to constitute an Advisory Council of Members of Parliament from each State to bring to the notice of the respective Governors in such States where President's rule has been established, the problems and difficulties of the people; and

(b) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA):

(a) and (b) Government of India propose to constitute Advisory Committees for such States. Their functions and composition are under consideration.

Eradication of untouchability

1134. SHRI PANDURANG DHARMAJI JADHAV: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what steps Government have taken for the eradication of untouchability;

(b) what are the schemes actually implemented for eradication of untouchability;

(c) what is the response of the States in this matter;

(d) whether there is any State in the country in which untouchability is not observed in any kind; and

(e) whether Government have any such machinery to eradicate untouchability completely?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA):

(a) and (b) Realising the inadequacy of the Untouchability (Offences) Act, 1955 a fresh enactment was made and the name of the Principal Act was changed into the Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955. This came into force on 19th November, 1976. The provisions of this Act have been made more stringent and the Offences have been made non-compoundable. The Central Government have set up a Special Cell in the Ministry of Home Affairs, which monitors the working of the Protection of Civil Rights Act. The Governments in a number of States, with sizeable population of Scheduled Castes, have also set up Special Cells, for the prompt and effective enforcement of the provisions of the Act. The Government of India have introduced a Centrally Sponsored Scheme for strengthening the machinery for the enforcement of the Act, under which assistance is provided to the State Governments. The more effective implementation of the Act is being vigorously pursued by the Government of India with the State Governments. The Government of India are also considering comprehensive Action Plan based on economic development supported by social and educational programmes for eradication of untouchability.

(c) 11 States have availed of the central assistance under Centrally Sponsored schemes for the enforcement of Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955. 16 States give assistance for legal aid, 13 States have appointed officers for initiating or exercising supervision over prosecutions for the contravention of the provisions of

Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955. 12 States have set up Committees at appropriate levels for formulating or implementing such measures. Government of Gujarat, Karnataka, Kerala have identified untouchability prone areas, 2 States have conducted periodic surveys of the working of the provisions of the Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955, Government of Andhra Pradesh have sanctioned the establishment of Special Mobile Courts for on the spot trial of offences under Protection of Civil Rights Act and I.P.C in five districts of the State. The matter is being vigorously pursued with other State Governments.

(d) The States and Union Territories of Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Arunachal Pradesh, Dadra & Nagar Haveli, Lakshadweep, Manipur, Mizoram and Nagaland have reported that untouchability is not observed there in any kind.

(e) The Government is at present employing both official machinery and voluntary organisations for the eradication of untouchability. Voluntary organisations are given grant-in-aid for undertaking propaganda and publicity work for the removal of untouchability. The Government of India have recently undertaken a scheme under which grant-in-aid is given to the State Governments for creating special machinery and strengthening the existing machinery for effective enforcement of the Protection of Civil Rights Act 1955 and undertake other measures in this regard.

Industries for educated Adivasi youths

1135. **SHRI PANDURANG DHARMAJI JADHAV:** Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) what are the industries meant for the unemployed educated Adivasi youths;

(b) what are the facilities given to them for the purpose;

(c) what are the measures Government are considering to encourage these people in this regard; and