

(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;