

(c) to what extent the present plant will further augment the indigenous supply?

THE PRIME MINISTER, MINISTER OF ATOMIC ENERGY, MINISTER OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI) : (a) Yes, Sir; the Plant is nearing completion.

(b) and (c) Indigenously developed Rohini and Menaka Rockets have been flight-tested.

With the commissioning of the Plant for the manufacture of Rocket propellants, we will be self-reliant with regard to propellant blocks for Centaure Rockets capable of reaching an altitude of 180 kilometers. The Plant will also supply composite propellant for Rohini and other Rockets.

*543 .[Transferred to the 23rd December, 1968.]

ARMS SUPPLY TO PAKISTAN

*544. SHRI SITARAM JAIPURIA : j Will the Minister of DEFENCE be j pleased to state i

(a) the names of the countries which have recently started supplying defence equipment to Pakistan; and

(b) whether the Government of India has lodged any protest with those countries?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SARDAR SWARAN SINGH) : (a) and (b) Acquisition of military equipment by Pakistan from various sources is not a recent feature. The reaction of the Government to the recent decision of the Soviet Union to supply arms to Pakistan was indicated to the House in the Prime Minister's statement on 22nd?July, 1968.

RETIREMENT AGE OF ARMY, NAVY, AND AIR FORCE OFFICERS

*545. SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any representation* have been received from the high Arm>, Navy and Air Force off cers about the early age of their retirement; and

(b) whether any reconsideration of retirement rules in the Defence Services is under study ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SARDAR SWARAN SINGH) : (a) Representations have been received from a few Army Officers against retirement on completion of their tenures.

(b) No, Sir.

FUNCTIONS OF ASIAN BROADCASTING UNION

1086. SHRI THILLAI VILLALAN : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) when the Asian Broadcasting Union was created and what is the role of our country in it; and

(b) what are the main functions the Union has undertaken to perform and what are the functions it has, so far, completed since its inception ?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K. K. SHAH) : (a) The Asian Broadcasting Union was established in 1964. All India Radio is one of the full members of the Union.

(b) The objectives of this organisation are as follows:—

(i) to support in every appropriate field the interests of broadcasting organizations which have accepted the ABU statutes and to establish relations with other broadcasting unions and other organizations;

(ii) to promote and co-ordinate the study of all problems relating to broadcasting and to ensure the ex^ change of information on all matters of general interest to broadcasting services;

(iii) to promote all measures designed to assist the development of broadcasting in all its aspects;

(iv) to seek, within the framework of the Union and in the spirit of mutual concession and co-operation the solution of any differences that may arise;

(v) to use its best endeavours to ensure that all its members respect the provisions of international agreements relating to all aspects of broadcasting; and

(vi) to make efforts to contribute to the advancement of international friendship and goodwill through the medium of broadcasting.

The Union has tried to promote cooperation amongst the member organisations and promote these objectives.