

Total Area of India

1375. Shri Mohammed Elias: Will the Minister of Labour and Employment be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indian Labour Statistics 1964 published by the Research Bureau of Ministry of Labour and Employment has shown the total area of India as 12,28,402 square miles which is 33,195 square miles less than the figure shown in the Reference Manual of the Research and Reference Section of Ministry of Information and Broadcasting; and

(b) if so, which of these two figures are correct?

The Minister of Labour and Employment (Shri D. Sanjivayya): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The area figures published in 'Indian Labour Statistics, 1964' related to only those areas where the 1961 census had been conducted. The area figures appearing in 'India 1963' related to the whole country including that area of Jammu and Kashmir under foreign occupation, where the census could not be conducted in 1961.

M.I.Gs. from U.S.S.R.

1376. { **Shri Brij Raj Singh—**
Kotah:
Shri P. C. Borooah:

Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to purchase 38 MIG aircraft from U.S.S.R. pending manufacture of such aircraft in India; and

(b) if so, on what terms?

The Minister of Defence (Shri Y. B. Chavan): (a) As indicated in the statement made in the Lok Sabha on the 21st September, 1964, a certain number of MIG-21 aircraft are being purchased from the Soviet Government which, together with supplies

under the August 1962 agreement, would enable us to re-equip three of our Fighter Squadrons with MIG-21 aircraft.

(b) The above purchase will be paid for in rupees which can be used by the Soviet Government for purchase of goods and articles in India according to the existing arrangements.

Bulletins on Prime Minister's Illness

1377. { **Shri Bade:**
Shri Brij Raj Singh:

Will the Minister of Information and Broadcasting be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that no medical bulletins were issued on the recent illness of Prime Minister;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) who was responsible for briefing the press on Prime Minister's health?

The Minister of Information and Broadcasting (Shrimati Indira Gandhi): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The illness was not considered serious enough to necessitate the issue of medical bulletins. Official information on the health of the Prime Minister was, however, supplied to the Press twice a day in the beginning and once daily later on.

(c) Press briefings during the Prime Minister's illness were conducted by the Press Information Bureau.

Canteen Staff in Defence Establishments

1378. Shri S. M. Banerjee: Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state:

(a) whether any final decision has been taken on the question of treating the Canteen employees in the Defence Establishments including the Ordnance and clothing factories as regular Government employees and if not, the reason therefor;