

(b) if not, how long our dependence on foreign designs, equipment and know-how will last?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI C.P. N. SINGH): (a) and (b). Government have accorded the highest priority for indigenous design and development of aircraft and its systems to achieve self-reliance. Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) have successfully developed and produced various types of defence aircraft. Continuous efforts are being made to develop suitable designs for future aircraft. However, with a view to meeting the immediate requirements of the Services, as also to keep abreast of the latest state of art in this sophisticated field, it is necessary to have a judicious mix of indigenous design and foreign know-how.

Steps to solve problems of Tribal People

1185. **SHRI LAKSHMAN MALLICK:** Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state the steps taken or propose to be taken by Government to solve the problems of the tribal people in the country during the current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): The Ministry of Home Affairs are administering the following development programmes for solving the problems of scheduled tribes in the country:

- I. Tribal sub-Plan.
- II. Programme for the pockets of tribal concentration outside sub-Plans.
- III. Programme for primitive tribes.
- IV. Centrally Sponsored Schemes.
 - (i) Girls' Hostel.
 - (ii) Research and Training.

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- (iii) Aid to Voluntary Organisations.
- (iv) Post-matric scholarship.
- (v) Overseas scholarships for Scheduled Tribes.
- (vi) Coaching and Allied schemes.
- (vii) Book banks.

Selection of Tanks for Armoury

1186. **SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO:** Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that with a view to keeping the armoury upto-date Government are contemplating to replace the Vijayanta tanks;

(b) if so, whether a final selection in this regard has been made; and

(c) if so, the tank that has been chosen and in what way it is an improvement over the present one?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI C. P. N. SINGH): (a) We are designing and developing an indigenous main battle tank with a view to replacing the Vijayanta tank. Other modern tanks currently available in the world are also being evaluated.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Decline in Atrocities on Harijans

1187. **SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO:** Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that during the last four months atrocities on Harijans in the country have come down;

(b) whether Government propose to keep up the pressure against such sections of the population who are generally biased against the harijans; and

(c) the areas and States where the problem still persists?