

authentic information to corroborate these reports, China is reportedly making preparations for an ICBM test perhaps in the Indian Ocean.

(b) Government believe that the defence of our country can be best ensured by adequate military preparedness based upon conventional weapons. Government's policy is to use nuclear energy for peaceful purposes only.

Sending the Indian assembled MIGs to U.S.S.R. for repair

534. SHRI N. E. HORO: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether MIGs assembled in India were being sent to the Soviet Union for repair; and

(b) if so, whether all necessary material and technical support is not available in India in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE (DEFENCE PRODUCTION) IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): (a) and (b). The facilities for overhaul of MIG 21 aircraft were established subsequent to the setting up of facilities for its manufacture in India. The actual work on overhaul commenced during 1971-72 and the output has been steadily rising. In the meantime, there was some accumulation of aircraft awaiting overhaul and hence it was decided to send a small number of aircraft, including those assembled in India to USSR for overhaul.

Proposal for Formation of an Economic Organisation of Indian Ocean Countries

535. SHRI HARI SINGH:
SHRI ANADI CHARAN DAS:
SHRI P. GANGADEB:
SHRI RAGUNANDAN LAL
BHATIA: -

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the reaction of Government in regard to formation of an Economic

Organisation of Indian Ocean countries as figured in talks with Shah of Iran during his recent visit to India; and

(b) whether Government have negotiated with any other country for forming such an organisation; and

(c) if so, the results thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI BIPINPAL DAS): (a) In talks during the visit of His Imperial Majesty the Shah of Iran, it was agreed that there was scope for greater economic and cultural co-operation within the region as a whole covering the littoral countries of the Indian Ocean

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise

Vaccine for Birth Control

536 SHRI HARI SINGH:
SHRI GAJADHAR MAJHI:
SHRI VASANT SATHE:
SHRI DHAMANKAR:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING be pleased to state

(a) whether Government have any knowledge about the recent research of a birth control vaccine by Indian Medical Scientists; and

(b) if so, when Government propose to use that vaccine for birth control in India on mass scale?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING (SHRI A. K. M. ISHAQUE): (a) An anti-placental vaccine is being developed at the All-India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi.

(b) The vaccine is still in the development stage and is not yet ready for being used on a mass scale.