

The Minister of External Affairs (Shri M. C. Chagla): (a) There has been a slight increase in the number of applications for passports after the Supreme Court Judgment in addition to the increase which had already occurred as a result of liberalisation of rules in June last year.

(b) Efforts were made by the available staff handling the increased work-load to dispose of as many passport applications as possible. During 1966 only .4 per cent applications were rejected. In the first 5 months of 1967 18 per cent of applications were rejected.

Investigations into use of Toxic Chemicals in Vietnam

***578. Shri Indrajit Gupta:** Will the Minister of External Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether the International Control Commission for Vietnam has made any investigation into the allegation that toxic chemicals are being used by U.S.A. against the civilian population in South Vietnam; and

(b) if so, the findings thereof?

The Minister of External Affairs (Shri M. C. Chagla): (a) It is understood that the International Commission has received complaints from the People's Army of North Vietnam about the alleged use of toxic chemicals and gases by the United States of America in South Vietnam.

(b) The Commission sends reports of its activities to the Co-Chairmen of the Geneva Conference. No report on this subject has been received by the Government of India so far.

Violation of Indian Air Space by Pakistan

***579. Shri Yashpal Singh:**
Shri S. C. Samanta:
Shri Onkar Lal Berwa:
Shri Hukam Chand Kachwai:
Shri Jagannath Rao Joshi:
Shri Swell:
Shri D. C. Sharma:

Shri Meetha Lal:
Shri K. N. Pandey:
Shri Vishwa Nath Pandey:
Shri Tridib Kumar Chaudhari:

Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state:

(a) whether a fighter plane from East Pakistan entered Indian territory and flew over the villages of Jayanti-put and Haridaspur of 24 Parganas District on the 30th April, 1967;

(b) whether this was the second incident of air intrusion within a week; and

(c) the action which has been taken in the matter?

The Minister of Defence (Shri Swaran Singh): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

Infiltration of Tibetans in Bhutan

***580. Shri D. N. Patodia:**
Shri C. C. Desai:
Shri R. Barua:

Will the Minister of External Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there has recently been heavy infiltration of Tibetans into Bhutan;

(b) if so, the total number estimated to have crossed over to Bhutan from Tibet;

(c) whether the Government of Bhutan have approached the Government of India in this regard; and

(d) if so, whether any steps have been taken to deport the infiltrators and check their entry any further?

The Minister of External Affairs (Shri M. C. Chagla): (a) A number of Tibetans have crossed over to Bhutan in the recent past.

(b) The number of Tibetans who crossed over to Bhutan between the period 1st October, 1966 to 31st March, 1967 is 122.