Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has begun collecting data for the Census 2021 and if so, the details thereof including the criteria being following in this regard;

(b) whether the COVID-19 pandemic and the lockdowns have affected the reliability of the data so collected and if so, whether the Government proposes to restart the process;

(c) whether the Government proposes to conduct caste based census and also to make public the findings of the same, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Government would be including data on external migration from a State in Census 2021, in the light of the migrant labour issues if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the time by which the Census is likely to be completed?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS

(SHRI NITYANAND RAI)

(a) to (e): The Government decided to conduct Census 2021 under the Census Act, 1948 in two phases, viz., (a) House listing & Housing Census during April-September, 2020 and (b) Population Enumeration during 9th to 28th February, 2021. However, Census related field activities have been postponed till further orders due to Covid-19 pandemic.
In Census, data is collected on demographic and various socio-economic parameters like education, SC/ST, religion, language, marriage, fertility, disability, occupation and migration of the individuals. Data on migration characteristics along with the reasons of migration such as work/employment and business is collected.