

(b) Allotment of quarters is done in accordance with rules based on length of service and scale of pay. A small number of houses are, however, allotted by the General Manager of the Steel Plant on out-of-turn basis to employees on compassionate grounds such as for medical reasons and by virtue of the employee's nature of work, etc.

Visit of Foreign Minister of U.S.S.R. to India

665. SHRI P. RAJAGOPAL NAIDU:
SHRI K. MALLANNA:
SHRI CHITTA BASU:
SHRI K. A. RAJAN:
SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPPA:
SHRI MEETHA LAL PATEL:
SHRI PRASANNBHAI MEHTA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Foreign Minister of U.S.S.R. visited India recently;

(b) whether any discussions were held with him; and

(c) if so, the main features of the subjects discussed and the outcome of discussions?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE): (a) to (c). The Foreign Minister of U.S.S.R., Mr. A. A. Gromyko, visited India from April 25 to 27, 1977, at the invitation of the Government of India. During his stay in New Delhi, Mr. Gromyko had talks with the Prime Minister and the Minister of External Affairs. The talks, which were held in a warm and cordial atmosphere, covered bilateral relations as well as topical international questions of mutual interest. The two sides reiterated their desire not only to preserve, their traditional friendship and cooperation, but to strengthen it further.

At the end of Mr. Gromyko's visit, a joint Indo-Soviet communique was

issued, a copy of which is laid on the Table of the House. (Placed in Library. See No. LT-364/77).

Steps for eradication of Malaria

666. SHRI P. RAJAGOPAL NAIDU: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether spraying of D.D.T. is prohibited in the country; and

(b) if so, the steps taken to eradicate Malaria?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI RAJ NARAIN): (a) No, there are however some areas in the country where the malaria vector has developed resistance to DDT. In such areas alternative insecticides are used.

(b) Government of India has approved a revised strategy for controlling malaria in the country in November, 1976. The modified plan is in operation from 1-4-77. The salient features of the revised strategy are:

1. Under this strategy all the areas where the incidence of malaria is more than two per one thousand population will be brought under regular spray with appropriate type of insecticides as far as possible. For this purpose the insecticides will be supplied by the Government of India even for the maintenance phase areas which were not getting this assistance earlier.

2. The cost of material and equipment is borne by Government of India after making only minor adjustment for maintenance phase areas.

3. The units in the States have been reorganised according to the district pattern and the district medical officer has been made fully responsible for the implementation of the programme.