

(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.

4. The entire cost of the state headquarter staff and the zonal staff according to the approved pattern of Government of India is met by the Government of India.

5. 72 entomological teams have been provided to 72 zones in the country. These teams inter-alia assess the entomological situation, the susceptibility status of the vector and also suggest the appropriate type of insecticides to be used in the particular areas.

6. Great emphasis has been laid on the supply of antimalarial drugs. These are made available not only through the malaria workers, hospitals, Primary Health Centres etc., but also through agencies like Panchayats, School Teachers, fever treatment depots and malaria clinics. The antimalaria drug will also be supplied through normal commercial channels.

7. To reduce the timelag between collection of blood smears and their examination, the laboratory services are being decentralised to Primary Health Centres in attack and consolidation phase areas as well.

8. The surveillance staff for the difficult areas has been augmented.

9. Great emphasis is being laid on people's participation in the programme. For this purpose the Panchayats, School teachers and other voluntary organisations are being involved progressively.

10. Health Education activities are being intensified by display of posters distribution of folders and hand bills etc. Cinema slides have been prepared and are being exhibited in different towns. Metallic plates are also being prepared for display at Primary Health Centres. Mass media like radio and television are being utilised for the purpose. Films on malaria are also being exhibited.

11. The research activities in malaria are being intensified to find

answers for the various problems which have come up due to the set backs to the programme. Both fundamental and operational research are being undertaken.

#### **Indo-USSR Talks on Rupee-Rouble Relation**

667. SHRI SAMAR GUHA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether during his talks with the Foreign Minister of Russia, the issue of (i) rupee-rouble relation and (ii) reported high profit made by Russia in trade and other commercial and economic exchange, featured pointedly; and

(b) if so, the outcome of such talks?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

#### **Implementation of Rural Health Programme**

668. SHRI BIJOY KUMAR MONDAL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any hindrance in the implementation of the Rural Health Programme as evolved during the conference of the Health Ministers of States held in April, 1977; and

(b) the nature of contributions which are likely to come forward from the State Governments in implementing the scheme and the share of the Central Government in this connection?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI RAJ NARAIN): (a) and (b). The details of the scheme are under examination by Planning Commission and Finance Ministry. The State Governments have been requested to send their approach papers on the scheme. Some