

recently in New Delhi. In pursuance of its declared objective to eradicate destitution within a time frame of 10 years, Government will no doubt take into account all available information and suggestions for the achievement of this objective.

Rated Capacity of Salem Steel Plant

730. SHRI R. KOLANTHAIVELU: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the progress in respect of the Salem Steel Plant;

(b) the rated capacity of the plant and the expected time of commencement of production;

(c) whether the project is going according to schedule; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor and the remedial action taken?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI BIJU PATNAIK): (a) In March, 1977, Government approved the first stage of Salem Steel Project involving an investment of Rs. 126.61 crores.

Necessary preparatory work and infra-structure facilities for the first stage of the project have been almost completed. Expenditure on the project so far amounts to Rs. 13.30 crores.

Offers have been received from international stainless steel makers for supply of production know-how.

(b) The rated capacity of the first stage of the plant is expected to be 3,000 tonnes of cold rolled stainless steel flat products per year. Production is expected to commence towards the end of 1981.

(c) All possible measures are being taken to complete the project according to schedule.

(d) Does not arise in view of (c) above.

Techno-Economic Treaties with Foreign Countries for Economic Development

731. SHRI R. KOLANTHAIVELU: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the precise developments in respect of Indo-Soviet Treaty of Peace, Friendship and Co-operation following recent visit of Mr. Gromyko;

(b) whether arrangements and agreements made are conducive to increased techno-economic support from Soviet Union; and

(c) whether in view of the success of the Treaty, Government propose to have similar treaties with other Powers so as to ensure increased techno-economic support for our economic development?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE): (a) and (b). During the visit of Mr. A. A. Gromyko, Foreign Minister of USSR, to India from April 25 to 27, 1977, the two sides reiterated their desire not only to preserve the traditional friendship and cooperation between India and USSR, but to strengthen it further in the spirit of the Indo-Soviet Treaty of Peace, Friendship and Co-operation. The following agreements on bilateral co-operation were concluded during the visit:

(i) Agreement on Economic and Technical Cooperation;

(ii) Agreement on cooperation in the establishment of Troposcatter Communication Link (for the establishment of reliable telegraph and telephone communication between the two countries);

(iii) Agreement on the mutual exchange of goods for the year 1977.

(c) Government of India will continue to develop relations of friendship and co-operation with all countries

on the basis of the principles of mutually advantageous bilateralism, equality and reciprocity.

Malaria in Delhi

732. SHRI F. H. MOHSIN:
SHRI HARI VISHNU
— KAMATH;

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Malaria was wide-spread in Delhi and other parts of the country;

(b) the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI RAJ NARAIN): (a) Yes, the incidence of malaria has increased in Delhi as well as other parts of the country during the past few years.

(b) and (c). A statement giving the required information is enclosed.

Statement

(b) The main reasons for the rise in the incidence of malaria in Delhi and other parts of the country are as follows:—

(1) In Delhi, anti malaria operations are executed by Delhi Municipal Corporation, New Delhi Municipal Committee and six other smaller agencies in the respective areas. Due to multiplicity of agencies the operations have suffered. It has now been decided to have a unified authority for controlling malaria under Delhi Administration.

The urbanisation of Delhi has been expanding very fast during the last few years. The existing agencies could not however cover the various new colonies adequately with anti-larval measures.

(2) Some of the vectors of malaria have developed resistance to DDT in some localities and to BHC in some other areas with the result that other alternative but more expensive insecticides have to be used to control the disease.

(3) In some localities of North Eastern States strain of *P. Falciparum* resistant to chloroquine is present. However the resistance is only of a moderate level in most of the areas.

(4) Due to oil crises there have been increase in the cost of insecticides.

(5) Due to increase in development project in the country there has been enormous increase in the tropical aggregation of labour.

(6) In some parts of the country plastering immediately after the spray has adversely affected the efficiency of spray operations.

(c) The following steps have been taken to control the disease:

(1) A modified plan of operation has been sanctioned by the Government of India and is under implementation in the country from 1st April, 1977. Under this plan 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 equipments 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 patterns and district medical officer has been made fully responsi-