

**Foreign Minister's Visit to USSR**

443. **SHRI JAGANNATH MISRA:** Will the Minister of **EXTERNAL AFFAIRS** be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Minister of External Affairs had visited Russia in September, 1974 to have talks with his Russian counter part on matters of mutual interest; and

(b) if so, the nature of talks held and the outcome thereof?

**THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI BIPINPAL DAS):** (a) Yes Sir. The then Minister for External Affairs, **Sardar Swaran Singh**, visited the Soviet Union from 8th to 10th September, 1974 on an invitation from the Soviet Government. Apart from holding talks with the Soviet Foreign Minister, he also held talks with the General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union.

(b) The talks between the two sides covered a broad exchange of views on topical international problems as well as bilateral questions of mutual interest and revealed an identity or closeness of views.

A copy of the agreed Press Release issued at the conclusion of the visit is placed on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-8470 74.]

**Strike by C.I.T.U. and A.I.T.U.C. Unions in Durgapur Steel Plant**

444. **SHRI ROBIN SEN:** Will the Minister of **LABOUR** be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had received strike notice for 3rd October, 1974 served by the CITU and AITUC unions of Durgapur Steel Plant, demanding the reinstatement of retrenched contract labourers and their absorption in Durgapur Steel Plant; and

(b) if so, Government's attitude towards the retrenched contract workers?

**THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI BALGOVIND VERMA):** (a) and (b). Industrial relations in the Durgapur Steel Plant come within the jurisdiction of the Government of West Bengal. The Ministry of Labour have no information about the strike notice referred to. The demand concerning re-instatement of contract workers reported to have been retrenched has been brought to the attention of the appropriate authority.

**Labour Courts in Kerala**

445. **SHRI A. K. GOPALAN** Will the Minister of **LABOUR** be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Labour Courts in Kerala,

(b) whether the post of judge in the Labour Court in Kerala has been lying vacant for the last nine months.

(c) if so, the reason thereof, and

(d) how many cases are pending in the Labour Court as on the 10th August 1974?

**THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI BALGOVIND VERMA):** (a) One.

(b) The post of Presiding Officer, Labour Court Quilon is vacant from 14-3-1974 when the previous officer retired.

(c) According to the State Government, there is difficulty in getting a suitable panel of names.

(d) 3629 cases as on 6th November, 1974.

**M.B.S. Doctors in Primary Health Centres of Gujarat**

446. **SHRI K. S. CHAVDA** Will the Minister of **HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING** be pleased to state:

(a) how many Primary Health Centres in Gujarat State are manned?