

(iii) **Balwad Feeding Programme** is being implemented through 4318 Balwadies and covers 19 lakhs children mostly in rural areas.

**1A Other Programmes:**

(i) **Applied Nutrition Programme:**

This is directed towards improving the nutrition of rural community.

(ii) **Prophylaxis against blindness in children caused by Vitamin 'A' deficiency.**

Under this programme, children are being given massive doses of Vitamin 'A' every six months orally to prevent vitamin 'A' deficiency leading to blindness.

(iii) **Prophylaxis against nutritional anaemia in mothers and children:**

Iron and folic acid tablets are being given daily to children, expectant and nursing mothers through Primary Health Centres, maternal and child health clinics, ante-natal and post-natal clinics etc.

**Bokaro Expansion**

2404. **SHRI D. P. JADEJA:** Will the Minister of **STEEL AND MINES** be pleased to state:

(a) whether a project report for expansion of Bokaro Steel Plant is being prepared by the Metallurgical and Engineering Consultants India Limited; and

(b) if so, when the report is expected to be available to Government?

**THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SUKHDEV PRASAD):** (a) and (b) The Detailed Project Report for the Bokaro Steel Plant of 4 million tonnes capacity, prepared by the Soviet organisation in December, 1965, is being updated by the Metallurgical and Engineering Consultants India Limit-

ed, and is expected to be completed by the end of November, 1974.

**MECON** have also been commissioned for preparation of a Detailed Project Report for expansion of the Plant from 4 to 4.75 M.T. capacity, which they expect to submit by December, 1974.

**Retrenchment of Indian Employees by Soviet Embassy in India**

2405. **SHRI BISHWANATH JHUN-JHUNWALA:** Will the Minister of **EXTERNAL AFFAIRS** be pleased to state.

(a) whether a large number of Indian employees working in the Soviet Embassy in Delhi have been retrenched;

(b) whether those employees have not been paid their full dues and the employees are agitating on this issue; and

(c) if so, whether Government would take up the matter with the Soviet Embassy and if so, when?

**THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI BIPINPAL DAS):** (a) to (c). According to information available with this Ministry, services of 11 locally recruited employees were terminated by the Soviet Embassy during 1974. A representation from the local employees involved was received and the matter was taken up with the Soviet Embassy. The Soviet Embassy have stated that the services of these local employees have been terminated according to the terms and conditions of their contracts.

**Bases of various Countries in Indian Ocean**

2406. **SHRI PRABODH CHANDRA:** Will the Minister of **EXTERNAL AFFAIRS** be pleased to state the names of the countries who have either established or plan to establish bases in the Indian Ocean?

**THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI BIPINPAL DAS):** As the House was informed in answer to an earlier Question on 23th April, 1974, the U.S.A., the UK and France reportedly have bases in the Indian Ocean. Government have no definite information about plans for the establishment of new bases in the Indian Ocean.

**Functioning of Welfare Unit in Ministry of External Affairs**

2407. **SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR.** Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Welfare Unit in the Ministry has failed in tackling satisfactorily the difficulties such as children's education and accommodation of the officials posted in India and abroad; and

(b) the steps Government propose to take to streamline the working and improve the efficiency of the Welfare Unit?

**THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI BIPINPAL DAS):** (a) The Welfare Unit has been making best efforts to help the officials returning from posts abroad in getting over their difficulties regarding accommodation and education of their children. But the Unit has to function under certain limitations which are beyond the control of the Ministry of External Affairs.

(b) Steps to bring about further improvement in the functioning of the Unit are being considered.

**Punjab Small Scale Units affected by Shortage of Iron and Steel**

2408. **SHRI RAGHUNANDAN LAL BHATIA:** Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether small scale units in Punjab have been greatly affected by the shortage of iron and steel; and

(b) if so, the steps taken for the proper distribution of iron and steel to these units?

**THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SUKHDEV PRASAD):** (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

**Issue of Invitations by Foreign Missions in India**

2409. **SHRI YAMUNA PRASAD MANDAL:** Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have directed all foreign Missions in India to route their invitations to Indian nationals, officials or non-officials, through the Ministry of External Affairs; and

(b) if so, the names of Missions which have violated this directive?

**THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI BIPINPAL DAS):** (a) Yes, Sir. Instructions were issued to the Foreign Missions to route all their invitations to Indian nationals for visits abroad through the Ministry of External Affairs.

(b) There were some cases of violation of the instructions, which have been brought to the notice of the Missions concerned for observing the correct procedure in future.

**Journals of Ministry of Defence**

2410. **PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR.** Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state the names and circulation of the journals being brought out by the Ministry of Defence?