

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?