

Catering Institute, deputation, internal transfers, departmental promotion and selection on the basis of seniority-cum-merit etc. It is not obligatory to advertise every vacancy. By and large, vacancies are notified to the Employer Exchange.

(b) As the names and dates of the recruitment of the new employees have not been indicated, it is not possible to answer this question.

(c) and (d) A section of the employees have been demanding promotion on the basis of seniority alone. In a commercial and competitive undertaking, it is neither advisable nor desirable to regulate promotions purely on the basis of seniority. Further the demand for promotion on the basis of seniority alone runs counter to the policy of re-organising merit. To the extent possible, due preference is given to the departmental candidates.

Export of Iron Ore to Japan

5091. SHRI P.K. KODIYAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government had talks with Japanese importers of Indian iron ore regarding a price increase of \$4 per tonne ;

(b) whether Japanese Steel mills have not agreed to increase the price ;

(c) whether they have decided to curtail the import of this commodity from India ;

(d) if so, what are the details and Government's decision thereon ; and

(e) whether in the light of this situation Government are considering proposals to set up new steel plants to make use of the whole iron ore in the country itself?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION (SHRI ARIF BEG) : (a) to (e). The Hon'ble Member presumably refers to the recent discussions held between MMTC and Japanese Steel Mills on export of iron ore to Japan during 1977-78. MMTC's exports to Japan are covered by three separate contracts, each of which specifies a minimum and maximum limit on quantities to be imported by the buyers at their option. Due to recession in the Japanese Steel production, the buyers have exercised option to import

the minimum quantities specified in these contracts. Notwithstanding this, MMTC's exports to Japan during the current year are expected to be higher by 36.24 per cent over last year.

— In one of the contracts viz., for Bailadila ore, MMTC has been trying to secure an increase in the original contracted price. Negotiations in this regard are continuing and it would not be in the commercial interest of the Corporation to go into the details of these discussions.

Indo-FRG Joint Commission

5092. SHRI RAM PRAKASH TRIPATHI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any joint Commission between India and Federal Republic of Germany ;

(b) what are the areas or subjects within the purview of this Joint Commission ;

(c) what is the level of the Chairman nominated by each country for this Commission ; and

(d) how many meetings of this Commission have so far been held and when and where the next meeting of the Commission is to be held ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION (SHRI ARIF BEG) :

(a) The Protocol dated 30-10-1959 to the Trade Agreement dated 31-3-1955 between India and the Federal Republic of Germany had provided for a Commission for holding mutual consultations for the purpose of securing effective implementation of the understanding set out in the Protocol.

(b) The areas or subjects covered by the Commission will, *inter-alia*, include trade expansion, industrial and technical cooperation, etc.

(c) According to the Protocol, the Commission would consist of the representatives of the two Governments. The level of the Chairman on either side has not been specified.

(d) After the discussions in October, 1959, two meetings of the Commission were held in 1960 and 1963 respectively. There is at present no proposal as regard the next meeting of the Commission.