

(d) if the reply to part (b) above be in the negative, the reason for the inordinate delay in submitting the report ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI H.N. BAHUGUNA): (a) Yes. A one-man committee headed by Shri Madan Kishore, retired Member, P & T Board was set up in October '70 to examine among other things the basis for remunerating the services of the Extra Departmental Agents.

(b) Not yet.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The Committee was required to submit its report within one year from the date of its formation. As such report is expected only by October '71.

Extention of Indo-Japan Trade Agreement for Export of Iron ore

1648. SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU : Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a report in the Economic Times, Bombay in its issue dated the 27th April, 1971 entitled "Iron Ore Export : Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation faces mounting losses" ;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto ;

(c) whether a move is about for the extension of the eight years' agreement with Japan for the export of iron ore ; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As had already been pointed out on the 16th December, 1970, in reply to Unstarred Question No. 4896 by the Hon'ble Member, the main factor affecting the economics of iron ore exports is the

transport cost involved in the procurement of the ore from areas far away from the sea ports.

(c) and (d). The particular long-term contract referred to covers the exports of lumpy iron ore from Bailadila via Visakhapatnam Port. Deliveries against this contract during 1970-71 constitute only about one-fourth of the total iron ore exports of about 12 million tonnes by the M. M. T. C.. This contract runs till April, 1980. Hence, the question of its extension does not arise at this stage.

Small and Medium Newspapers

1649. SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 72 on the 1st April, 1971 regarding monopolies in Newspapers Industry and state :

(a) the positive steps taken by Government during the last three years to foster the growth of small and medium newspapers ; and

(b) the outcome of the steps so far taken ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI DHARAM BIR SINHA) : (a) and (b). A Statement is laid on the Table of the House setting out the steps taken so far by the Ministry to foster the growth of small and medium newspapers.

Statement

Government is fully alive to the danger of concentration of ownership in the newspaper industry which may result in regimentation of thought and opinion and is anxious to prevent such developments as far as practicable. Towards this end, the following steps have been taken :

(i) The Press Registrar makes an annual review of the ownership of newspapers and periodicals,