

Shri Kajrolkar:
 Shri Ram Harkh Yadav:
 Shri P. C. Borooah:
 Shri Dharmalingam:
 Shri Indrajit Gupta:
 Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath:
 Shri R. Ramnathan
 Chettiar;

Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) whether a top-level Japanese Economic Mission visited India in January, 1966 to discuss the formation of an Indo-Japanese Body for Economic Co-operation;

(b) how far the visit has helped in convincing the Japanese Government and businessmen in Japan that India is a safe place for larger Japanese investment of capital; and

(c) the prospects of expansion of Japan's overall aid policy?

The Minister of Finance (Shri Sachindra Chaudhuri): (a) At the invitation of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry a delegation consisting of representatives from important branches of Industry, Banking and Trade in Japan visited India from January 28 to February 5, 1966, to discuss ways and means of promoting economic co-operation between the two countries, it was agreed by the Japanese delegation and the Federation to establish an Indo-Japan Business Co-operation Committee to facilitate liaison and consultation between business circles of Japan and India.

(b) The visit afforded an opportunity to the delegation to meet representatives of Government, Industry and Trade in India. Continuing mutual contacts have a useful part to play in promoting technical and financial collaboration.

(c) Japan is a member of the Aid-India Consortium which meets from time to time under the auspices of the World Bank for considering development assistance to India. Fur-

ther Japanese assistance will largely depend upon the assessment of India's foreign exchange needs by the Consortium.

Transport System of Assam

*755. Shri Bibhuti Mishra: Will the Minister of Planning be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a high power working group, with the Chief Commercial Superintendent of the N.F. Railway as President, has been set up to plan development of Transport system of Assam, coordinating rail, road and river; and

(b) if so, what is the shape of co-ordinated scheme for rail, road and river?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Finance (Shri L. N. Mishra):

(a) and (b). A Committee with the Chief Commercial Superintendent of the North-east Frontier Railway as Chairman and representatives of the Rivers Steam Navigation Company, Central Road Transport Corporation and the Government of Assam as members was set up in November 1965. The functions of the Committee are limited to the consideration of such specific questions as may arise from the operations of rail, road transport and water transport in the region.

Concrete Block Factories

*754. Shri Bhagwat Jhu Asad:
 Shri M. L. Dwivedi:
 Shri S. C. Samanta:
 Shri Subodh Hansda:
 Shri P. C. Borooah:

Will the Minister of Works, Housing and Urban Development be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to establish cellular concrete block factories with Polish aid; and

(b) whether any agreement has been signed in this regard?