

Sino-Indian Relations

*663. SHRI K. N. DHULAP:
PROF. N. M. KAMBLE:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Sino-Indian relations are heading towards normalisation following the appointment of a new Foreign Minister Mr. Chiao Kuan-hua in the People's Republic of China; and

(b) if so, what are the fresh diplomatic moves in this regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI BIPINPAL DAS): (a) and (b). The appointment of the new Foreign Minister, Mr. Chiao Kuan-hua has not been followed by any concrete Chinese response to India's well-known initiatives towards normalising relations.

Indo-G.D.R. Joint Commission

*664. SHRI LOKANATH MISRA:
SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO:
SHRI M. P. VERMA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether an agreement to set up a Joint Commission has been signed between India and the German Democratic Republic; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI BIPINPAL DAS): (a) An Agreement setting up a Joint Commission for Economic, Scientific and Technical Cooperation between the Government of India and the German Democratic Republic was signed in New Delhi on the 1st December, 1974.

(b) The Commission would operate at the level of Ministers, who would be

assisted by experts from both sides. It would review the entire range of economic cooperation between the two countries and recommend ways of strengthening this cooperation. Meetings of the Joint Commission would generally be held annually and in either country alternately.

Recession in the Steel Market

*665. SHRI INDRADEEP SINHA:
Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there has recently been a recession in the steel market;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) what steps Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI CHANDRAJIT YADAV): (a) to (c) In the context mainly of additional availability of steel during the current year when compared with the last year, there are some surpluses in certain categories of steel. Export of such categories of steel has been permitted.

Reintroduction of travel facilities to visit Mansarovar

*666. SHRI SALIL KUMAR GANGULI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to refer to the reply to Unstarred Question 916 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 9th August, 1974 and state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to reintroduce travel facilities for Indian pilgrims intending to visit Mansarovar in the Tibet region of China;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) if not, what are the reasons therefor?