- (b) if so, whether other categories of staff like Electrical Staff, Train Examiners, Khalasis, Watchmen and Attendants are also supplied with khaki uniforms:
- (c) whether Government have received any reports to the effect that the categories of staff referred to in part (b) above cheat the passengers posing themselves as members of the Ticket Checking staff as they also wear khaki uniforms; and
- (d) if so, the reasons for the replacement of white uniforms by khaki uniforms for the Ticket Checking staff and the steps taken by Government to stop the malpractices referred to in part (c) above?

The Minister of Railways (Shri C. M. Poonacha): (a) Yes, Sir, except on the North Eastern, Southern and South Eastern Railways where Travelling Ticket Examiners were already getting khaki uniforms previously.

- (b) Yes, Sir, excepting khalasis who generally get blue uniforms on the Railways.
 - (c) No. Sir.
 - (d) Does not arise.

Accumulation of Khadi Stocks

*1760. Shri Virendrakumar Shah: Shri D. C. Sharma: Shri Ram Kishan Gupta:

Will the Minister of Commerce be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that stocks worth over Rs. 25 crores and equal to 10 months' production have been accumulated with the Khadi and Village Industries Commission; and
- (b) if so, the steps being taken by Government to ensure quick clearance of these stocks and to prevent closure of industries and consequent lay-offs?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Commerce (Shri Shafi Qureshi):
(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Khadi and Village Industries Commission has been asked by Government to implement recommendations in this behalf made by the All India Khadi and Village Industries Board. A proposal made by the Khadi and Village Industries Commission that the Government should lift 25 per cent of the Khadi yarn for being mixed with mill-made yarn is under consideration.

Anginers

Coal-Tarring of Non-Marathi Sign Boards at Railway Stations in Greater Bombay

*1761. Shri Jyotirmoy Basu:
Shri Ganesh Ghosh;
Shri E. K. Nayanas:
Shri A. Sreedharan:
Shri Mangalathamadom:
Shri Vasudevan Nair:
Shri C. Janardhanan:
Shri C. K. Chakrapani:
Shrimati Suseela Gopalan:

Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Shiv Sena in Bombay have taken a decision to coal-tar all non-Marathi sign boards at Bailway Stations in Greater Bombay; and
- (b) if so, the steps which Government propose to take to prevent this unlawful action?

The Minister of Rallways (Shri C. M. Poonacha): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Maintenance of law and order within railway premises being the responsibility of the State Government and the State Government Railway Police, the Railway Administrations headquartered at Bombay, have already brought the matter to the notice of the State Police authorities for necessary action.

Purchase of Cotton from Pakistan
*1762. Shri Madhu Limaye:
Shri S. M. Banerjee:
Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia:
Shri George Fernandes:

Will the Minister of Commerce be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to purchase 50,000 bales of cotton from Pakistan by making the payment in £ sterling;

- (b) whether the Pakistan Government have charged higher price than that prevailing in Egypt, Sudan, East Africa or the International price; and
- (c) if so, the reasons for agreeing to import cotton from Pakistan?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Dine:h Singh): (a) Government have not purchased any cotton from Pakistan. The House is aware that cotton is not purchased abroad by Government but by actual users, either directly or through their nominees.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

Export-Oriented Spinning Mills

*1763, Shri Ram Kishan Gupta: Shri Ramachandra Ulaka: Shri Dhuleshwar Meena: Shri Heerii Bhai: Shri K. Pradhani: Shri P. Gopalan: Shri C. K. Chakrapani: Shrimati Suscela Gopalan. Shri E. K. Nayanar: Shri Vasudevan Nair: Shri R. Barua: Shri Marandi: Shri D. N. Deb: Shri R. R. Singh Dec: Shri D. Amat: Shri D. C. Sharma: Shri N. K. Sanghi:

Will the Minister of Commerce be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 345 on the 7th April, 1967 and state:

- (a) whether any decision has since been taken regarding the location of the centrally-sponsored export-oriented spinning mills; and
 - (b) if so, the nature thereof?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Commerce (Shri Shafi Qureshi):
(a) and (b). The question of location of Centrally sponsored export-oriented spinning wills is still under examination.

National Instruments Ltd.

*1764. Shri Indrajit Gupta:
Shri A. K. Gopalan:
Shri Jyotirmoy Basu:
Shri E. K. Nayanar:
Shri K. Ramani:
Shri Bhagaban Das:
Shri Vishwanatha Menon:

Will the Minister of Industrial Development and Company Affairs be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 2819 on the 16th June, 1967 and state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the National Instruments Ltd., is without a Chairman of the Board of Directors for a long time and the Board meets irregularly and ineffectively;
- (b) if so, for how long this state of affairs will be allowed to continue;
- (c) whether it is a fact that production and development schedules of many items, including defence requirements are lagging behind; and
- (d) whether Government propose to set up a Committee to investigate into the affairs of the undertaking?

The Minister of Industrial Development and Company Affairs (Shri F. A. Ahmed): (a) to (d). Since the resignation of the last Chairman, the National Instruments Ltd. have been without a Chairman for the last few months. Action is being taken to obtain the services of a suitable Chairman and he is likely to be in position soon.

Meetings of the Board of Directors have taken place regularly and the Board have given effective directions to the Management from time to time.

There has been a tall in sales and curtailment of production for certain traditional items which is due to a slump in the engineering industries in the country and due to the lowering of the demand from State and Central Government Departments for the stems in question. The Company are