

ton 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 Dinesh 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 Heerji Bhal:
Shri K. Pradhani:
Shri P. Gopalan:
Shri C. K. Chakrapani:
Shrimati Suseela Gopalan:
Shri E. K. Nayanar:
Shri Vasudevan Nair:
Shri R. Barua:
Shri Marandi:
Shri D. N. Deb:
Shri R. R. Singh Deo:
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 mills 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 fall 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 items in question. The Company are

endeavouring to procure orders from the Defence Department for certain instruments and are taking steps to diversify their production programme towards lines where there is demand. It is expected that with a diversified programme, the production level will pick up. Both the Management and the Government are already seized of the problem and the question of appointing a Committee to enquire into the working of the Company does not arise.

Export of Coal

- *1765. **Shri S. S. Kothari;**
Shri S. K. Tapuriah;
Shri P. N. Solanki;
Shri K. P. Singh Deo;
Shri Yajna Datta Sharma;
Shri N. K. Somani;

Will the Minister of Commerce be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by Government for stimulating the coal consumption;

(b) whether there has been a decline in the export of coal during the last two years; and

(c) if so, how Government propose to step up the export of coal?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Commerce (Shri Shafi Qureshi):

(a) to (c). The following measures have been taken to stimulate the consumption of coal in the country:—

- (i) Relaxation of price and distribution controls over coal/coke;
- (ii) liberalisation of licensing policy with regard to opening of brick kilns and soft coke depots; and
- (iii) advising the State Government to encourage the growth of coal-based industries and to restrict the use of fire wood and Charcoal in industrial furnaces.

India used to export about one million tons of coal to Pakistan before the Indo-Pakistan conflict of 1965. Excepting exports to Pakistan, total exports of coal and coke to other countries have increased from 0.207 million tonnes in 1964-65 to 0.216 million tonnes in 1965-66, and 0.368 million tonnes in 1966-67. Measures for securing increased exports to Burma/Ceylon are being taken. Also possibilities of exporting Indian coal to Hongkong, Japan and other countries are being explored.

Zinc Smelter near Udaipur

- *1766. **Shri S. M. Banerjee;**
Shri S. S. Kothari;
Shri Madhu Limaye;
Shri George Fernandes;
Shri Onkarlal Bohra;

Will the Minister of Steel, Mines and Metals be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the erstwhile Metal Corporation of India had declared that the Zinc Smelter would come into operation in three stages i.e. by July, 1966, January, 1967 and then 3rd quarter of 1967;

(b) if so, whether the progress at the installation of the Zinc smelter is very slow;

(c) if so, reasons therefor;

(d) whether it is also a fact that the Zinc Smelter could have come into operation by the first quarter of 1965; and

(e) if so, the reasons for this abnormal delay?

The Minister of Steel, Mines and Metals (Dr. Chenna Reddy): (a), (d) and (e). According to a Memorandum submitted by the Metal Corporation of India to the Government in September, 1963, the Zinc Smelter was to come into operation in September/October, 1964; after the start up operation lasting about three months, the production in the first