

(e) if so, the measures contemplated in this direction;

THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN TRADE AND SUPPLY (SHRI B. R. BHAGAT) : (a) According to available information U. A. R. increased the opening prices of cotton of different varieties during the year 1968-69 by 12.8% to 22.9%, compared to the opening prices of the last year.

(b) Increase in prices is reported to have been made uniformly for all countries.

(c) Imports of U. A. R. cotton are still in progress and the total amount of extra cost cannot be determined at this stage.

(d) Not likely.

(e) Does not arise.

Foreign Collaboration Agreements

*17, **SHRI S. C. SAMANTA :**
SHRI YASHPAL SINGH :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the date from which the agreements of foreign collaboration are being scrutinised with a view to see that conditions, which prevent export of goods produced in India, are eliminated ;

(b) whether there are instances of any set of collaborators who might have abstained from entering into collaboration as a result of this attitude of Government; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT, INTERNAL TRADE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI F. A. AHMED) : (a) Although it has always been Government's policy to secure as wide export franchise in collaboration agreements as possible, it is in more recent years that

the collaboration agreements are being stringently scrutinised to eliminate export restrictions.

(b) Government is not aware of any such instance.

(c) Does not arise.

Precision Instrument Factory Project in Kerala

*18 **SHRI MANGALATHUMADAM :**
Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a move from the Central Government to drop the scheme or setting up of a Precision Instrument Factory Project in Kerala :

(b) if so, the details thereof ;

(c) whether Government have withdrawn the officers deputed in connection with the establishment of that Factory; and

(d) if so, the total number of officers withdrawn and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT, INTERNAL TRADE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI F. A. AHMED) : (a) and (b), As stated earlier, a provisional decision has been taken to postpone the implementation of the Mechanical Instruments plant at Palghat.

Because of the drastic reduction in the overall investment on industry coupled with the drop in the estimates of requirements of instruments, Government reviewed the question of production in the two units of Instrumentation Limited at Kota, Rajasthan and Palghat, Kerala. With a view to ensuring the economic viability of the Kota unit, which has since gone into production, Government consider that it would be necessary to postpone, for the present, the project at Palghat and take up at Kota with marginal additional investment, the instruments planned for the Palghat unit. This is urgently necessary as the range of instruments of the