

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