

JAPANESE REFUSAL TO ENTER INTO CONTRACT FOR IMPORT OF IRON-ORE

•391. SHRI K. SUNDARAM: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Japanese have refused to enter into longterm contract with India for the import of iron-ore to Japan because of high price; and

(b) if so, what steps have been taken by Government to avert crisis to Iron-ore exports?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI DINESH SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

NATIONAL INSTRUMENTS LTD.

◆392. SHRI NIREN GHOSH: SYED NAUSHER ALI: SHRI KESAVAN (THAZ-HAVA):

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

(a) whether the Clinical Thermometer Section of the National Instruments Ltd. is likely to close down;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to mis management of the firm; and

(d) whether the Government have any proposal to appoint a high power committee to probe into the working of the concern?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED): (a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

The Clinical Thermometer Section of the National Instruments Ltd. has been suffering losses on account of the cost of production being higher. Stocks have accumulated and the Board of Directors of the Company have decided that further production of clinical thermometers' should be suspended till the stocks are cleared.

The Employees* Union of the Company submitted a Memorandum containing various suggestions and demands including the one relating to the appointment of a high power Committee to look into the affairs of the Company. 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 to-wards line where there is a demand. It is expected that with the 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.

CHAOTIC CONDITION IN N.C.D.C. MINES

•393. SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND METALS be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for the present chaotic condition in the National Coal Development Corporation mines particularly in Assansol;

(b) the measures the Government intend to take to start production and healthy working of National, Coal Development Corporation/