

(b) whether there is any proposal with Government to purchase at least 50% of their requirements of cloth from the handloom industry and

(c) if not the reasons thereof

THE MINISTER OF SUPPLY (SHRI D R CHAVAN) (a) A statement is laid on the Table of House

(b) No Sir

(c) Cloth is purchased according to the specific requirements of indentors

#### STATEMENT

The total value of textile items purchased by the Directorate General of Supplies & Disposals during the last four years is as follows

(Value in Lakhs of Rs)

Item	1969-70	1970-71	1971-72	*1972-73
Mill Made & power loom cloth	741.77	1,306.78	4,166.18	1,651.52
Khadi	126.99	112.46	46.61	2.80
Handloom	25.28	180.09	358.29	120.35

\*Figures for 1972-73 are up to October '72 only

#### EUROPEAN DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH G D R

\*141 SHRI YOGINDRA SHARMA  
SHRI SURAJ PRASAD  
DR / A AHMAD  
SHRI SANAT KUMAR RAHA  
SHRI KALI MUKHERJEE  
SHRI VENIGALIA SANYA  
NARAYANA

Will the Minister of INTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state

(i) whether the Government of India have received any communication from the Government of Federal Republic of Germany against giving full recognition to the G D R and

(b) if so what is the gist of that communication?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SARDAR SWARAN SINGH) (a) No Sir

(b) Does not arise

#### STEEL STUDY TOUR TO EUROPE

\*142 SHRI N R CHOUDHURY  
SHRI PRANAB KUMAR  
MUKHERJEE  
SHRI KOTA PUNNAIAH  
SHRI K L N PRASAD

Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state

(a) whether a team consisting of officials was sent to study the operation of

the holding companies in certain countries of Europe and

(b) if so what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI S MOHAN KUMAR MANGRAM) (a) and (b) A study team consisting of Shri M A Wadud Khan, Secretary and Chairman designates of the proposed Steel Holding Company as Leader and Shri P N Dhari, Secretary to the Prime Minister Shri H Bhaya Chairman Hindustan Steel and Shri K V Ramanathan Joint Secretary visited Italy, Sweden and France to study the functioning and experience of Holding Companies and similar organisations in these countries. Shri Wadud Khan also visited London for discussions with the Chairman of the British Airways Board. The team left for Europe on the 24th September and spent two weeks in these three countries.

#### ARRIARS OF PROVIDENT FUND

\*143 SHRIMATI PRATIBHA SINGH,  
SHRIMATI SAVITA BEHEN,  
SHRI SIARAM KESRI  
SHRI MONORANJAN ROY  
SHRI BALACHANDRA MENON  
SHRI SANAT KUMAR RAHA  
SHRI N K KRISHNAN

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state