

at 36 to 37 pence per pound and of West Germany 38 pence.

- (ii) S.T.C. have informed that c.i.f. price of polyester fibre as quoted by foreign suppliers varies between 36 and 37 pence per pound which in terms of rupees per kg. works out to around Rs. 6. To this the following may be added :—

	Rs.
Counter vailing duty	6.00
Customs duty	33.33
Handling charges	1.00
	<hr/>
Total	40 33
	<hr/>

Thus the landed cost of imported polyester fibre would come to about Rs. 46 for 2 Denier and above.

#### Indo-Indonesia Joint Industrial Ventures with U.S. help

2880. SHRI P. GANGADEB :  
SHRI NIHAR LASKAR :

Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to state :

(a) whether India and Indonesia are holding talks to set up joint industrial ventures with U.S. assistance ;

(b) if so, the outcome of the talks ; and

(c) the fields in which the joint ventures are to be taken up ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). The question does not arise.

#### Fixation of Price of T. V. Sets

2881. SHRI P. GANGADEB :  
SHRI NIHAR LASKAR :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have decided to fix the price limit of T. V. Set ; and

(b) if so, whether Government also propose to give any financial assistance to the manufacturers of T. V. sets for the rapid progress of this industry ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI K. C. PANT) : (a) and (b). There is no proposal at present under consideration of Government : (i) to fix the price limit of T.V. Sets ; (ii) of giving special financial assistance to the manufacturers of T. V. sets. Indigeous manufacturers have at present priced T.V. sets of 23" and 19" screen sizes at Rs. 1900 and Rs. 1700 respectively, exclusive of all taxes. Government are contemplating the following important sets which are likely to result in the lowering of the prices of T. V sets :

(i) gradual reduction in the prices of electronic components by setting up large volume production ; components account for a substantial portion of the cost of television sets ;

(ii) larger quantity production of television sets in each unit ; and

(iii) production of transistorised television sets with small screens of sizes 12" to 16".

#### Crisis in Handloom Industry in Kerala

2882. SHRI M. K. KRISHNAN : Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the serious crisis the handloom industry is facing in Kerala and the large scale closure of handloom factories ;

(b) the estimated number of handloom workers who have been rendered jobless due to the closure of handloom factories ;

(c) whether any steps have been taken by Government to reopen the handloom factories and revitalise this industry ; and

(d) if so, the main features thereof ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE) : (a) to (d). A number of complaints had been received, about the rise in prices of cotton yarn resulting in difficulties to the consumers in the decentralised sector, viz. handlooms, powerlooms etc from the various parts of the country, including Kerala State. There was actually no shortage of supplies of cotton yarn as such. The problem mainly related to the increase in prices.

2. This might have resulted in closure of a few handloom factories in Kerala and other States. Exact details in this regard are not available. However, there are no reports regarding large scale closure of handloom factories.

3. With a view to bringing down the prices of cotton yarn and making its supplies available to the decentralised sector at reasonable rates, Government of India have taken the following steps :

- (i) To augment the supply of cotton, with a view to meeting the short-fall in domestic production, import of additional foreign cotton and staple fibre in substantial quantities has been arranged. In addition, various measures have been taken to regulate more stringently stocks, credit control and other trading facilities.
- (ii) In order to assist the cotton handloom, powerloom and hosiery sectors, a pool of cotton carded yarn has been created. Supplies from the pool are made through the Directors of Industries/Handlooms in the State concerned.

**Thefts Committed in Flats in Janakpuri,  
Pankha Road, Delhi**

2883. SHRI NATHU RAM AHIRWAR : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that a number of thefts have recently been committed in the flats in Janak Puri, Pankha Road, New Delhi ;

(b) whether the main reason of the operation of anti-social element in that area is that there is no Police Station within a radius of 3 to 4 miles ;

(c) whether the residents of the area consider themselves unsafe because of lack of

any arrangement for the Police post in that area ; and

(d) if so, whether a Police Post is proposed to be opened there shortly and, if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI K. C. PANT) : (a) Twenty cases of theft were reported during the period from 1st May 1970 to 30th April 1971.

(b) to (d). This colony is situated at distance of about two miles from Police Station Tilak Nagar. Day and night patrolling is being done in the area by the Delhi Police. It is a recently established colony and is yet to be fully developed. The question of establishing a police post in the area is under consideration.

**Increase in price of woollen goods**

2884. SHRI N. S. BIST : Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to state :

(a) whether price of woollen goods continue to register sharp rise every year ;

(b) if so, the rise in price thereof during the last three years and the reasons therefor and

(c) the steps taken by Government to bring down the price ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE) : (a) and (b). In line with the general trend of rise in prices, there has been some rise in the price of woollen goods. A statement giving the information is laid on the Table of the House.

(c) To arrest further rise of prices Government have released a larger amount of foreign exchange for import of raw material and steps are being taken for the modernisation and expansion of the woollen industry and creation of addition combing capacity.

**STATEMENT**

*Statement showing the rise in price index of woollen goods since 1968*

Index Number of wholesale price base :  
1961-62-100.

	1968	1969	1970	1971	%Increase
All commodities	165.3	168.7	179.2	182.1	10.8
Raw Wool	96.7	101.4	107.8	105.5	9.1
Woollen manufactures	160.0	167.3	180.8	183.2	14.1