

pect of coffee, taking into account the cost of production. There is no immediate proposal for any hike in the above prices.

No support price is fixed for tea and pepper.

Joint Venture Proposal from IBM

3732. SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether IBM (International Business Machines) has submitted a proposal for a joint venture with the Tata Group in the various electronic fields as reported in the 'Times of India' dated July 3, 1991;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA): (a) IBM have not submitted any formal proposal to the Government for a joint venture with the Tata Group.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Export of Molasses

3733. SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Sugar Mills Association have approached the Union Government and sought permission for export of molasses:

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto:

(c) whether the Government of Maharashtra has also applied for licence to start distillery unit under the Co-operative Sector: and

(d) if so, the action taken in the matter so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (DR. CHINTA MOHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Export of molasses is permitted based on its overall demand supply balance for the country, as a whole, assessed from time to time. During the current alcohol year, permission for export of 2.60 lakh tonnes of molasses has been given thus far.

(c) No Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Status of Fertilizer Units

3734. SHRI BHAGEY GOBARDHAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of the Public Sector Undertakings concerned with production of fertilizer in the country;

(b) the total accumulated losses of the undertakings till date:

(c) whether the Government propose to revamp these undertakings to produce fertilizers at competitive market price; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (DR. CHINTA MOHAN): (a) The present functioning status of 9 Public Sector Undertakings are given below:—

Rashtriya Chemicals and Fertilizers Limited (RCF), Madras Fertilizers Limited (MFL), National Fertilizers Limited (NFL), Fertilizers and Chemicals Travancore Limited (FACT) and Pyrites, Phosphates and Chemicals Limited (PPCL) are earning profit. Projects and Development India Limited (PDIL) does not produce any fertilizers. Paradeep Phosphates Limited (PPL) has suffered losses on account of inadequate supply of imported phosphoric acid, labour problems, etc. Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation (HFC) is incurring losses