

ment have announced suspension of export cess on pepper till 30-9-1993.

- (iii) Educating the farmers to upgrade the quality of pepper through scientific post harvest processing for improving quality and promoting export.

#### **Impact of Acceptance of Dunkel's Proposals on New Drug Policy**

544. SHRI S. S. SURJEWALA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) what would be the impact of acceptance of the Dunkel's proposals on the New Drug Policy enumerated by Government;
- (b) whether it is a fact that the acceptance of the proposal would retard the growth of the *Domestic Pharmaceuticals Industries*;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that Dunkel Proposals would result in drastic reduction in export trade in the field of Drugs and Pharmaceuticals; and
- (d) whether the prices of the common Drugs would shoot up manifolds in the event of acceptance of these proposals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) to (d) Acceptance of the Dunkel proposals would imply that the manufacture of drugs patented after the Agreement comes into effect, could be taken up only by the patent holder or his licensee. The manufacture and marketing of drugs already in the market or patented before the Agreement comes into effect would not be affected.

If India signs the TRIPs Agreement it is anticipated that the impact in respect of exports will be limited to new drugs, and to countries which are not providing patent protection for drugs. The number of such countries is dwindling.

Medicines covered by product patents would tend to have higher prices than those not covered by patents because of the exclusive rights granted under the patent system. It is however, not possible to quantify precisely the extent of price rise that may result from the patent system because this would depend on various factors like, availability of alternative non-patented medicines, the nature and extent

of the demand for the medicine, price control mechanism, etc. As for the likely general impact on prices of medicines, it may be stated that about 10-15% of the total production of drugs in the country would at best be covered by product patents granted in other countries.

#### **International Pepper Community Conference**

545. SHRI V. GOPALSAMY

SHRI K. K. VEERAPPAN:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India participated in the International Pepper Community Conference; if so, the sponsor of this conference and when the conference took place and where;

(b) the names of the Indian representatives in the conference alongwith the deliberation made by the conference;

(c) whether the conference took any decision; if so, the details thereof;

(d) what was India's stand in the conference on the various issues;

(e) what has been the outcome of the conference since then whether India have achieved any tangible results in the World Pepper Market; and

(f) whether any policy decision has been taken by Government to help Indian farmers to receive remunerative price in the market; if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) Yes, Sir. Indian participated in the 21st session of the International Pepper Community (IPC) and related meetings at Bali, Indonesia during 7-11 June, 1993.

(b) Shri Ashok Kumar, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Commerce, Plenipotentiary Representative of India, Shri T. Nadakumar, Chairman, Spices Board and Shri N. G. Panicker, exporter attended the meetings.

(c) IPC member-countries took stock of the global situation of production, consumption and marketing of pepper and considered various possibilities of arresting the decline in pepper prices. Two strategies were discussed, namely a Voluntary Stock Retention Scheme by