

†[THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI H. M. PATEL): (a) and (b). Negotiations with the USSR authorities on the question of the rupee-rouble exchange rate are being pursued with a view to arriving at a mutually acceptable settlement. These negotiations are of a confidential nature and it would not be in the public interest to disclose at this stage the details of the progress made so far in these negotiations. It would not be possible to indicate precisely when these negotiations would be concluded.]

Increase in mutton prices

562. SHRI SITARAM KESRI:

SHRI DHARAMCHAND JAIN:

SHRI BHISHMA NARAIN SINGH:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND CO-OPERATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that recently prices of mutton have increased abnormally as a result of large-scale exports;

(b) whether Government propose to reduce the exports so as to bring down the prices to a reasonable level in the internal market; and

(c) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE, CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION (SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR GOYAL): (a) No, Sir.

†[] English translation.

(b) and (c). Export policy in respect of meat is being reviewed.

Agricultural Exposition, 1977

563. SHRI SITARAM KESRI:

SHRI DHARAMCHAND JAIN:

SHRI BHISHMA NARAIN SINGH:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND CO-OPERATION be pleased to state the names of the Participant countries in Indian Agricultural Exposition, 1977, the expenditure involved and the results likely to be achieved as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION (SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR GOYAL): The Indian Agricultural Exposition, 1977 is fundamentally a National Exhibition but four foreign countries namely U.S.S.R., Hungary, Japan and Afghanistan are also participating in it. The expenditure likely to be incurred by the Trade Fair Authority of India on this Exposition is estimated at Rs. 66 lakhs.

The results which are expected to be achieved for organising Agri-Expo 77 are as under:—

(i) Dissemination of information on the progress achieved since independence in the field of agriculture and allied sectors,

(ii) Promotion of export of important agricultural products and services,

(iii) Exploration of avenues for development of Co-operation in the field of agriculture and allied industries with foreign countries, and

(iv) To make Indian manufacturers aware of the rural demand for consumer and other goods.