

**Seminar for Fertiliser Manufacturers  
held in Delhi**

1769. SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether at a seminar held recently in New Delhi, the fertiliser manufacturers and experts suggested to the Central Government that the fertiliser units in the country should have their own captive power units;

(b) whether they have also drawn the attention of the Central Government that the Central directive to States that power cut should be graded and not on uniform basis, is not being followed by the State Electricity Boards;

(c) whether sudden power cut has caused huge loss to machinery also; and

(d) whether Government have considered the above suggestions and their reaction in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A suggestion was made at the seminar that the fertilizer units should qualify for high priority in power allocations and the power cut on such units, if absolutely necessary, should be graded and not on uniform basis. The Central Government have also been requesting the State Governments to accord high priority to the fertilizer industry in the matter of supply of power.

(c) Power disturbances in the form of frequency fluctuations and sudden interruptions affect the sensitive equipments, though it is difficult to specify the exact magnitude of their impact.

(d) Government have already approved installation of captive power generation facilities at some of the

existing plants to insulate the sensitive plants and equipments against the possible damage due to frequency fluctuations and sudden power interruptions. Some more proposals are under the examination of Government. It is also proposed to have such facilities in all the fertilizer plants to be set up in future.

**Excise Duty Concession to Processing Units of Low Density Polyethylene and Polypropylene**

1770. SHRI K. RAMAMURTHY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that M/s Union Carbide and Indian Petrochemicals Corporation have increased the basic price of low density polyethylene and polypropylene instead of passing on the excise duty concession to the processing unit; and

(b) if so, the action proposed to be taken by Government to help the processing units?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Since the price of petrochemicals such as Low Density Polyethylene and Polypropylene are not statutorily controlled, no action is contemplated.

**Power Shortage in Tamil Nadu**

1771. SHRI R. MUTHUKUMARAN: Will the Minister of ENERGY AND COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the serious power shortage in Tamil Nadu, resulting in frequent load shedding;

(b) whether the State Government has requested the Centre for any assistance; and

(c) if so, the steps considered for overcoming the power shortage?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI VIKRAM MAHAJAN):** (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). Assistance from Kerala is being given to Tamil Nadu to cover a portion of the shortage in Tamil Nadu.

#### **Power cut hits Mining at Jharia**

1772. **SHRI ANANDA PATHAK:** Will the Minister of ENERGY AND COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the power cut has hit the mining at Jharia; and

(b) if so, steps taken by Government to improve the position?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI VIKRAM MAHAJAN):** (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. Power supply to collieries has been adversely affected due to low generation level in Damodar Valley Corporation. The generation in DVC area has improved recently and higher allocation to collieries is being made. Assistance from Northern Region has also been arranged so as to minimise power restriction/cuts to collieries to the extent possible. In addition a task force from the Central Electricity Authority/National Thermal Power Corporation has been deputed to DVC stations to prepare a betterment cum renovation programme in association with DVC engineers and monitor the implementation of the same.

#### **Investment of Drug Companies for stepping up Production**

1773. **SHRI M. V. CHANDRA-SHEKHARA MURTHY:**

**SHRI P. M. SAYEED:**

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether several drug companies are planning large scale investment to

step up drug production in the country;

(b) if so, whether fresh investment involving Rs. 100 crores have been already cleared by Government;

(c) if so, whether many other proposals for the investment running into crores of rupees are being processed by Government;

(d) if so, what are the details of these proposals;

(e) whether even the expected investments in the drug industry in the near future will be inadequate to meet the country's requirements considering the demand estimates made by the Working Group that the country would require for bulk drugs by the end of the 6th plan period;

(f) whether additional production of bulk drugs by 1982 would need fresh investment of Rs. 370 crores; and

(g) whether the main reason for the low output of bulk drugs is slackness in investment in the drug industry during the 5th plan?

**THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL):** (a) and (b). The investment intentions reflected in the approvals given for schemes for the manufacture of drugs and formulations point towards sizeable future investment in the drug industry. The aggregate outlays contained in the proposals which were approved during 1978-79 and 1979-80 are of the order of Rs. 130 crores.

(c) and (d). There is continuous receipt of proposals from the drug industry for issue of industrial licences and registration letters which are disposed of in accordance with a time bound programme. A Statement showing the proposals received since the 1st April, 1980 for industrial licences for manufacture of bulk drugs is attached.