

CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) reasons for the closure of the Alkali and Chemical Corporation of India Limited;

(b) future of the employees and workmen; and

(c) reaction of Government?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI P. C. SETHI): (a) to (c). The plant of Alkali and Chemical Corporation of India Ltd. (ACCI) at Rishra (West Bengal) was closed from 24-1-1981 to 1-4-1981 mainly because of non availability of alcohol. In December 1980, the Uttar Pradesh Government increased the export pass fee on industrial alcohol to Rs. 2/- per litre. The West Bengal Government as well as the All India Alcohol Based Industries Association and the ACCI represented that this increase had adversely affected the economic viability of the alcohol based units in West Bengal. Hence, even though the Uttar Pradesh Government were willing to release the alcohol allocated to West Bengal by the Government of India, alcohol was not lifted by ACCI. The export pass fee has since been revised with effect from 4-3-1981 by the Uttar Pradesh Government. Subsequent to the revision of the fee, the ACCI commenced lifting of alcohol and resumed the production operations on 1-4-1981. No employee/workmen was retrenched.

Plans for Greater Central Control over Power Generation

9092. DR. VASANT KUMAR PANDIT;

SHRI NIREN GHOSH:

Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some of the State Governments have not been able to manage the production and distribution of power;

(b) whether in view of the above, Central Government propose to bring

the item of power under the Central list from the Concurrent List;

(c) if not, what other plans have been drawn to have greater Central Control on power development and management throughout the country; and

(d) whether Central Control on the power section will help in establishment of national grid in the interest of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI VIKRAM MAHANJAN): (a). By and large the State Governments have been able to manage the production and distribution of power. Whenever, some deficiencies have been noted, detailed guidelines are issued by the Centre to overcome the problems.

(b) There is no proposal at present to bring the item of power under the Central List from the Concurrent List.

(c) Emphasis has been laid on more power generation in the Central Sector than hitherto. One of the benefits that will accrue as a result of a greater role for central generation is that exploitation of hydro resources would be speeded up. There is more emphasis on Central transmission lines also. The Rajadhyaksha Committee Report has also recommended that if power planning is to be done in a way which minimises the cost of power to the consumer, it must be done on a regional rather than as, at present, on State-wise basis. The Committee is also of the view that 45 per cent of the entire generating capacity by the year 2000 A.D. should be in the Central Sector.

(d). It is felt the construction of a larger number of 400 KV transmission lines in the Central Sector, will strengthen the development of a well integrated national grid.