

(c) complications, if any, that the delay in clearance of the project will create;

(d) the extent of cost escalation, if any, that such delay is likely to result in; and

(e) the steps taken by Union Government to expedite the process of approval by IDBI?

**THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO):** (a) and (c) to (e). Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI) had as a result of its appraisal of the project at Haldia indicated that the size of the ethylene plant which was part of the project was well below the minimum economic size and as a result the costs of production would be uneconomic. IDBI had also found considerable gap in financing. In view of this, the Haldia Petrochemicals Ltd. had been asked to examine the possibility of implementing the down stream project in the first phase. No final reply has so far been received by the IDBI in this regard from the company.

(b) The party holds foreign collaboration approvals for naphtha cracker and various down stream units approved from 1986 onwards. The validity of such approvals is being extended from time to time at the request of the party.

#### **Import of Technology from Japan to Check Noise Pollution by Thermal Power Stations**

\*921. **SHRI HUSSAIN DALWAI:** Will the Minister of ENRGY be pleased to state:

(a) the measures taken or proposed to be taken by Government to check noise pollution by thermal power stations;

(b) whether Government propose to import modern technology development in Japan to check noise pollution by thermal power stations; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE**

**DEPARTMENTA OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI KALP NATH RAI):** (a) to (c). The equipment used in the thermal power stations are normally designed, as per the specifications indicated at the design stage itself, to limit the noise level to the acceptable level of 85-90 decibels. The National Thermal Power Corporation have indicated that they do not need to import any specialised technology for reduction in noise pollution.

#### **Modernisation of Metal Container Industry**

\*922 **SHRIMATI BASAVARAJESWARI:**  
**SHRI ATISH CHANDRA SINHA:**

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Union Government are examining various measures to develop the metal container industry;

(b) if so, whether any foreign collaborations have been approved for modernisation of this industry; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

**THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO):** (a) to (c). Government is permitting foreign collaboration and import of capital goods, as necessary, in order to modernise the industry. Two existing as well as two new units have been permitted for foreign collaboration. Out of these four approvals, three are both technical and financial collaborations and the remaining one is only a technical collaboration.

#### **Information Centres**

\*923. **SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA:** Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Information Centres established in each State, Statewise;