

(g) 91775 cylinders were damaged and four persons lost their lives in the accident. The total estimated loss in monetary term has been approximately Rs. 280.03 lakhs.

#### Decision on Petrochemical Plant at Haldia

\*29. SHRI SYED MASUDAL HOS-  
SAIN :  
SHRI SUDHIR GIRI :

Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the State Government of West Bengal had requested the Government to speed up its decision on the proposed petrochemical plant to be set up at Haldia either under a public sector undertaking or by a private sector undertaking ;

(b) if so, the date and year when the said request was first made ;

(c) what was Government's response to that request ;

(d) if no decision has been taken so far, the reasons therefor ; and

(e) by what time a decision is expected to be taken ?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKAR) : (a) to (e). In its letter dated April 15, 1977, the Government of West Bengal requested approval to the applications made by the West Bengal Industrial Development Corporation (WBIDC) for a petrochemical complex at Haldia. A letter of intend dated 11.11.1977 was issued to the WBIDC. On May 9, 1980, the WBIDC requested for amendment of this for a higher ethylene capacity. Amendment to letter of intent providing for the higher capacity applied for was issued to WBIDC on 19.12.1980.

The State Government by its letter dated 25.3.1981 proposed that the State Government and the Central Government should each contribute 40% of the equity share capital of the Haldia petrochemicals project and the balance 20% may be provided by the public financial institutions. The Central Government responded to this request by carrying out a review jointly with the West

Bengal Government of the optimal product pattern and the cost estimates. The review of the product pattern has taken place and the State Government is preparing a revised feasibility report which is awaited.

The Planning Commission has agreed to the provision of Rs. 25 crores in the Sixth Five Year Plan for undertaking preparatory work for new petrochemical projects, including the proposed Haldia Project.

#### Complaints about Doordarshan Centre, Calcutta

\*30. SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOW-  
DHARY :  
SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH :

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have received a memorandum from Democratic Youth Federation of India, Student Federation of India, West Bengal Committee about the undemocratic functioning and discrimination by the Doordarshan Centre in the State while catering news and views ;

(b) the details of the memorandum ; and

(c) the steps Government have taken in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT) : (a) to (c). A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

#### Statement

A memorandum was handed over to Doordarshan Kendra, Calcutta on 24th June, 1983 by the representatives of the West Bengal State Committee of the Democratic Youth Federation of India (DYFI) and Student Federation of India (SFI). The memorandum alleged discrimination by Doordarshan Kendra, Calcutta against the local Left and Democratic mass organisa-