

(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-

tions in the telecasts of news and views and cited details of functions organised by DYFI and SFI alleged to have not been covered by Doordarshan Kendra, Calcutta. It also alleged that during the last Panchayat Elections in West Bengal, Doordarshan Kendra, Calcutta had given wider coverage to the activities of Congress-I in its news bulletins. In addition, demands like giving due coverage to mass organisations while catering for news and views ; stopping criticism of the policies of the State Government of West Bengal ; associating State Government with policy making relating to as well as functioning of TV ; starting a second channel for National Programme of Doordarshan and pending that, reducing its duration to one hour ; careful selection of feature films to be telecast on TV and encouraging local talent for making programmes for Doordarshan were also included in the memorandum.

News casts from all Doordarshan Kendras is governed by the Guidelines laid down by the Government to ensure accuracy, objectivity, impartiality and balanced representation to the activities of all parties, groups as well as events. Doordarshan Kendra, Calcutta originates and telecasts only one daily news bulletins in Bengali, the duration of which is 10 minutes. Within this limited time, a balance is maintained, on the one hand, between major national and international news and local and regional news and, on the other, between political news and social, cultural and developmental news. Thus, at any given point of time, events, whether political or otherwise, are included in the news bulletins depending on their relative news-worthiness vis-a-vis other contemporary events. As regards the activities of the West Bengal Committees of Democratic Youth Federation of India and Student Federation of India, some important functions organised by them were covered by Doordarshan Kendra, Calcutta. During the last Panchayat Elections in West Bengal due representation was given to the activities of all recognised political parties including the parties in the Left Front as well as Congress-I. During the three weeks preceding the Elections, the Chief Minister of West Bengal State, his Cabinet colleagues and other leaders of Left Front figured five times in the

news telecasts of Doordarshan Kendra, Calcutta while Central and State Congress-I leaders figured two times. Regarding educational policy of the Government of West Bengal, Doordarshan Kendra, Calcutta had organised a discussion in which a spokesman of the State Government also participated to put forth the Government's point of view. There was no criticism by Doordarshan of the educational policy of the State Government. State Governments are always consulted on various policy issues relating to media units, including TV, through annual conferences as well as discussion, exchange of letters, etc. In addition, Doordarshan Kendra, Calcutta, as well as other Doordarshan Kendras, have Programme Advisory Committees in which representatives of State Governments are included. Regarding the demand for a second channel for National Programme, the question of starting a second channel is being looked into by a Working Group of experts set up by the Government. The report of the Working Group is awaited. Keeping in view the suggestions received from various State Governments in this regard, steps are being taken to improve the quality of the National Programme and widen its acceptability. Duly constituted Committees of officials of Doordarshan take necessary care to see that feature films of good quality are selected for telecast by Doordarshan. All possible efforts are made to encourage local talents for production of programmes for Doordarshan.

डीजल में मिट्टी के तेल की मिलावट

*31. श्री शिव शरण वर्मा :

श्री मनोराम बागड़ी :

क्या ऊर्जा मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार का ध्यान दिनांक 28 जून, 1983 के "जनयुग" में पृष्ठ 3 पर "पीलीभीत, यू. पी. में डीजल विक्रेताओं द्वारा भारी मिलावट" शीर्षक से प्रकाशित समाचार की ओर दिलाया गया है ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो डीजल में मिट्टी के तेल की