

Generation of power from the tides in the sea

3077. SHRI S. M. KRISHNA;
SHRI CHINTAMANJANI PANI-
GRAHI;
SHRI K. A. SWAMI:

Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether any studies have been or are being conducted for generation of power from the tides in the sea;

(b) whether any attempt has been made to harness the tides to provide energy; and

(c) when and where and the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI VIKRAM MAHAJAN): (a) to (c). Government have recently approved a proposal for taking up investigation and studies in the Gulf of Kutch in Gujarat to establish the feasibility for generating energy from the tides in the sea at an estimated cost of Rs. 2.18 crores. These studies will comprise (i) short-term field investigations; (ii) Laboratory Studies; and (iii) long term field investigations. The data collected from these studies would enable the preparation of a preliminary feasibility report for tidal power development in the Gulf of Kutch and would determine whether the implementation of the project is technically and economically feasible.

Allocation of Coal to West Bengal

3078. SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have caused any investigation to be made or received any report from the Government of West Bengal regarding allocation of coal to 134 parties by Coal India Limited out of whom 119 are in Malda District of West Bengal; and

(b) if so, the result of such investigation and the nature of such report and the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI A. B. A. GHANI KHAN CHOUDHURY): (a) and (b). The State Government of West Bengal had brought to the notice of Government about allocation of coal by Coal India to 133 parties of which 119 were in Malda district. Since no irregularity had been committed and as there is no statutory control on the sale and distribution of non-coking coal, the question of an investigation does not arise.

Press Commission

3079. SHRI G. M. BANATWALLA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the progress in the work of the Press Commission;

(b) whether Government are considering any extension of the term of the Press Commission which expires in December, 1980 and if so, reasons therefor;

(c) reasons for delay in the appointment of the Secretary, Press Commission, on the retirement of Shri M. V. Desai; and

(d) whether the Government proposes to change the Chairman of the Commission or reconstitute the Commission and if so, reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (KUMARI KUMUDHEN M. JOSHI): (a) The reconstituted Press Commission has taken stock of the work already done. It has held six sessions so far and has also identified areas where fresh work is required to be done. In respect of some new issues included in the revised terms of reference a few fresh questionnaires are likely to be issued. The reconstituted Commission has also invited memoranda from in-