

the Board for Industrial & Financial Reconstruction (BIFR). Any decision on the future of Haldia Project would depend on the outcome of the proceedings pending before the BIFR, which is a quasi-judicial body.

[*Translation*]

Electricity from Tidal Waves

352. DR. SAKSHIJI:
SHRI GOPINATH
GAJAPATHI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have formulated any scheme to generate electricity from tidal waves during the Eighth Plan period;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the estimated amount likely to be spent thereon during the above period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR):

(a) to (c) A techno-economic feasibility report (TEFR) was prepared for a 900 MW tidal Power Project in Gulf of Kutch, Gujarat by Central Electricity Authority/National Hydro-Electric Corporation. This proposed power project with a plant load factor of 21 percent was estimated to cost about Rs. 6000/- Crores. Though, feasible, the project was not considered to be cost effective. It is now proposed to appoint M/s Engineers India Ltd. to re-examine the TEFR with a view to maximis-

ing developmental benefits in the command area, improve benefit/cost ratio and prepare a detailed project report. An estimated expenditure of about Rs. 1.0 Crore during 8th Plan is envisaged.

Employment Assurance Scheme

353. SHRIMATI PRATIBHA DEVISINGH PATIL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have launched an Employment Assurance Scheme;

(b) if so, the number of blocks formed under this Scheme, State-wise;

(c) the details of works undertaken so far in these blocks, State-wise;

(d) the number of persons provided employment under this Scheme, State-wise;

(e) whether the Government have asked for any report regarding implementation of this Scheme from the States; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT) (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS) is being implemented in 1754 Blocks of the country covered under Revamped Public Distribution System. The number of blocks under this scheme, Statewise is given in *Statement-I*.