

with French firms for providing expertise for generating power from sea tidal waves;

(b) if so, whether Government have kept in view the need of Orissa for more power and the long coast line that would be helpful in generating such power;

(c) whether Government have made any survey of the Orissa sea waves;

(d) if so, the places that can be utilised for harnessing; and

(e) by what time a decision in this regard will be taken?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI A. B. A. GHANI KHAN CHAUDHURI): (a) In December, 1980 Government approved a proposal for taking up investigations and studies in the Gulf of Kutch to establish the feasibility for generating energy from Tidal Waves at an estimated cost of about Rs. 2.18 crores. The project envisages foreign assistance for import of specialised equipments, expert consultancy and training of Indian personnel. Since the Central Electricity Authority have already an agreement with the Electric-De-France (EDF), Paris, who are connected with the only one major tidal power project of the world, viz, La Rance in France, it was felt that the possibilities of getting their technical assistance for the purpose may be explored. In response to a request from the Government the EDF have now offered to depute two of their Experts for a period of 4-6 weeks under their agreement with the Central Electricity Authority to assist in the planning of the proposed investigations, in determining its scope and in identifying broad areas and methodology for data collection. No decision has yet been taken on the offer made by EDF.

(b) to (e). Certain sites had been identified as possible area for development of tidal power on the basis

or a study undertaken by Prof. E. M. Wilson in 1975 under a UNDP scheme. The Gulf of Kutch and Gulf of Cambay along the west coast and the Sunderbans area in West Bengal along the east coast were identified as possible areas for tidal power development. The tidal range is of the order of 8 m to 7.1 m in the Kutch area and 3.9 m to 10.9 m in Cambay. In West Bengal the tidal range at Durgaduani is 1.9 m to 6 m, at Belladonna 1.9 m to 6 m and at Pits Creek 1.05 m to 5.25 m. On the other hand the tidal variations at Paradip Port in Orissa (for which data is available) range from 0.7 m to 1.94 m. On the basis of the present stage of technology these tidal variations are not considered attractive for power generation. Further the topography of the area has to be suitable for formation of a basin. In view of this no study is proposed in respect of the establishing the feasibility of harnessing power from Orissa sea waves.

#### Global Tender for Mettur Thermal Plant

\*877. SHRI SELVARAJU: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether any global tender has been called for the plant and machinery for Mettur Thermal Plant;

(b) if so, whether it has been made certain by Government of Tamil Nadu that BHEL has not been able to meet the plant and machinery required for the Mettur Thermal Plant; and

(c) if not, the reasons for inviting the global tender by the State Government?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI A. B. A. GHANI KHAN CHAUDHURI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). The question does not arise.