

Application of geoscientific techniques in the areas of socioeconomic interest pertaining to the State of West Bengal :

The possible areas of applications of geoscientific techniques are:

- i. **Geoscientific Investigation to Study of Accretion Pattern and the Neotectonic Activity in the area around Haldia Port and Nayachar Island, Dakshin 24 Parganas & Purba Medinipur Districts with a view to navigation of Marine Vessels along Hoogly River and future of the Port.**

The technical aspects related to the issues of Nayachar and navigation problem to Haldia Port was narrated by the Director, Marine & Coastal Survey Division, GSI, ER, a Special Invitee, to the House. It was emerged from the discussion that GSI, ER worked on the Nayachar issue jointly with Calcutta Port Trust. Further investigation in Collaboration with Calcutta Port Trust and DMMWB may be made to have a deeper probe on specific request from State. However, considering the manpower shortage of the DMM, GSI had been requested to take up the issue of regional and national interest with in collaboration with KoPT.

(Action : GSI, ER)

- ii. **Geoscientific Appraisal of the Coastal Degradation along the Digha - Sunderbans Coastal Tract with focus on the changing geography of the area including change in Salt Water - Fresh Water Interface Pattern and possible effect on the economy of the area with particular impact on tourism.**

The Director, Marine & Coastal Survey Division of GSI, ER explained the issue on the strength of their previous works. It was emerged that the coastal tract of West Bengal was not only suffering from erosion of coastline but also from the salt-fresh water interface problem and the whole matter was closely connected with the socio-economic development of the area. He suggested for involvement of DMMWB to look into the matter and to raise specific areas where need of support of GSI would be required. However, considering inadequate manpower strength, GSI was requested to take up the issue of national interest with in collaboration with KoPT with active support of concerned authorities like Digha Development Authority, the District Magistrates of South 24 Parganas and Purba Medinipur Districts. DMMWB and C&I Dept., GoWB would remain in close association with development in this area.