

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EARTH SCIENCES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:387

ANSWERED ON:10.11.2010

DESALINATION OF SEAWATER

Gandhi Shri Feroze Varun;Siddeswara Shri Gowdar Mallikarjunappa

Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the sea water can be converted into potable water through scientific process;
- (b) if so, the cost of the process of one liter sea water;
- (c) the location alongwith capacity of plants operating at present in the country;
- (d) the funds allocated during the current Five Year Plan; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Government to involve private sector to further boost the production of potable water from the sea water?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES & PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS(SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN)

- a) Yes Madam. The Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) has developed Low Temperature Thermal Desalination (LTTD) technology for conversion of seawater into potable water, which is more suitable for installation in the island territories and Thermal Power Plants, located near the coast.
- b) The cost per liter of desalinated water would depend on the technology used and cost of electricity which varies from place to place. According to the cost estimates made recently by an independent agency for LTTD technology, the operational costs of desalinated water currently works to be 19 paise per litre.
- c) At present, two plants are operational one each at Kavaratti, Lakshadweep and at Northern Chennai Thermal Power Station (NCTPS), Chennai, which have capacity of 1 and 1.5 lakh litre per day respectively.
- d) Rs. 210 crores have been allocated in the current Five Year Plan to Ministry of Earth Sciences for conducting research, demonstration and installation of LTTD plants.
- e) LTTD technology is at a development stage and is not yet commercially proven. However, National Institute of Ocean Technology has invited expression of interest to explore possibilities of public-private partnership.