

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EARTH SCIENCES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5038
ANSWERED ON:25.04.2013
DESALINATION PLANTS
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Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

- (a). whether National Institute of Ocean Technology has any scheme to commission desalination plants at nine locations in Lakshadweep;
- (b). if so, the details of the locations of the said plants along with the current status and the costs incurred for the same;
- (c). the reasons for the delay in setting up of such plants and action being taken in this regard;
- (d). the details of the funds allocated for the setting up of such plants and the amount utilized; and
- (e). the details of the expected production capacity of each of these plants, plant-wise?.

Answer

MINISTER FOR MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY)

- (a). Yes, Madam.
- (b). The first demonstration plant in Lakshadweep Islands at Kavaratti was commissioned in 2005 followed by two more desalination plants in Minicoy and Agatti in 2011. All the three plants were handed over to Lakshadweep Administration. Expenditures amounting to about Rs. 5 crores, Rs.13 crores and Rs.21 crores were incurred for commissioning the plants at Kavaratti, Minicoy and Agatti respectively.
- (c). The delay in obtaining requisite approval for expenditure and the cost escalation of Rs. 55 crores sought by the contractor to proceed with the work for establishment of plants at Androth, Kadamath, Amini, Chetlat, Kiltan and Kalpeni in Lakshadweep Islands halted the work. Since, the cost escalation sought is not permissible as per the contract, an action for termination of contract with M/s KCEL and simultaneous preparation of Detailed Project Report(DPR) with revised cost estimates for establishing desalination plants in six islands has been initiated.
- (d). Out of Rs.59.28 crores deposited by Lakshadweep Administration for establishing six plants, an amount of Rs.42.55 crores was incurred for completion of two plants at Agatti and Minicoy, and supply of major equipment for setting up a plant at Androth.
- (e). The production capacity of each of the LTTD plants set up at Kavaratti, Minicoy, Agatti and the proposed at Amini, Chetlet, Kadamath, Kalpeni, Kiltan and Androth is 1 lakh liter per day of potable water.