

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2677

ANSWERED ON:12.03.2015

SETTING UP OF RO SYSTEM

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**Will the Minister of DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the Union Government has received representations from various States including Haryana for setting up of Reverse Osmosis (RO) systems to increase the per capita availability of potable water in rural areas;
- (b) if so, the State-wise details thereof including the RO systems operating through solar power and the action taken by the Union Government thereon;
- (c) if so, the number of such RO systems including the system to treat saline water established for the last three years and the current year along with fiscal allocation made by the Government and the total number of villages covered therein, State/UT-wise; and
- (d) the steps taken by the Government to cover other parts of the country to increase the per capita availability of potable water?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DRINKING WATER & SANITATION(SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV)

- (a) The Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation has received requests for release of funds from States such as Punjab, Rajasthan and Karnataka for setting up of Reverse Osmosis (RO) plants to provide safe drinking water in water quality contaminated rural habitations.
- (b) State-wise number of RO plants installed as reported by States to the Ministry is at Annexure. Most of the RO plants installed in States, are run using conventional electrical energy and not from solar energy.
- (c) Since RO technology can remove any dissolved metals or ions in drinking water, the Ministry does not differentiate different contaminants that can be treated by RO plants.
- (d) As a short term measure, community water treatment plants can be installed in all remaining arsenic, fluoride, heavy metals, toxic elements, pesticides and fertilizer affected rural habitations in States to provide 8-10 lpcd of safe water for drinking and cooking purpose. States have been advised to complete the targets of installing community water purification by March, 2017. As a long term measure, under the existing National Rural Drinking Water Programme Guidelines, once the basic minimum service level in rural areas exceed 40 liters per capita per day (lpcd), States can augment/elevate the service level to 55 lpcd during the 12th Five Year Plan period and to 70 lpcd during the 13th Five Year Plan period.