

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6775

ANSWERED ON:07.05.2015

WATER ATM

Lekhi Smt. Meenakashi

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

- (a) whether the Government has implemented or proposes to implement water ATM projects in the country;
- (b) if so, the details of the number of Water ATMs operational in the country, State/UT-wise and the number of beneficiaries indicating the costs involved in setting up and running of each ATMs;
- (c) whether Water ATM projects have been implemented on the public private partnership mode; and
- (d) if so, the details of the private partners in these projects and the extent of their participation?

Answer

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

(a) In November 2014, the Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation had issued Operational Guidelines for setting up of community water purification plants in all remaining arsenic, fluoride, heavy/toxic metal and pesticide affected habitations in the country, as a short term measure so that 8-10 litres per capital per day of safe water is made available to the rural people in those habitations for drinking and cooking purposes.

(b) Reverse Osmosis (RO) is amongst the prominent technologies that have been adopted by States for water purification in water quality affected habitations. Some of these RO systems work like Water ATMs wherein measured quantity of purified water is discharged for collection either by inserting a coin (say Rs 1 or 2) or by using rechargeable smart cards. The list of RO plants installed in the country as reported by States as on 16/4/2015 is at Annexure. All the population in those habitations where such plants are installed are beneficiaries. The cost of RO plant cannot be generalized as it depends upon the type of membrane, design capacity, extent of contamination to be removed, pre-treatment and post-treatment unit processes involved, etc. As reported by some States, the cost of treated water from RO plants is about 10 paisa per litre.

(c) & (d) Government of Karnataka has informed that during 2011-12, 300 Plants have been commissioned on PPP mode with fund sharing pattern of 50:50 and the agency has to maintain the system for 10 years. The private partners involved were M/s Smaat Aquatech Pvt Ltd, Ms/ Waterlife India Pvt Ltd and M/s Sai Water India Pvt Ltd.