

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2167
ANSWERED ON:10.03.2006
DESALINATION PLANTS
Ramadass Prof. M

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the progress made so far in installing desalination plants all along the coromandel coast;
- (b) whether the Government proposes to install any desalination plants in the country including one at Karaikal of the Union Territory of Pondicherry; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof, State-wise and Union-Territory-wise?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI A.NARENDRA)

(a) to (c) Rural drinking Water is a State subject. Department of Drinking Water Supply in the Ministry of Rural Development provides technical and financial assistance to States through the Centrally Sponsored Programme called Accelerated Rural water Supply Programme (ARWSP) for providing safe drinking water in the rural areas. In the rural sector, full powers have been delegated to the State Governments for sanctioning and implementing projects for tackling water quality problems, including salinity, for which 15% of annual ARWSP funds released to States, are specifically earmarked. In February 2006, this has been revised and it has now been decided to retain upto 20% of ARWSP funds at the Centre for tackling water quality problems, including salinity. These funds will be released to projects approved by the State Governments for tackling water quality problems, including salinity. No proposal has been received from States including Karaikal, UT of Pondicherry.

Urban Water Supply and Sanitation, including water supply through desalination is a State subject and it is the responsibility of the State/ Union Territory (UT)/ Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) to plan, design, execute, operate and maintain water supply and sanitation project with State Plan funds. It is, therefore, the prerogative of the State/ UT Government whether to install Desalination plants along Coromandel coast including one at Karaikal, Pondicherry, if need be.

Pursuant to the announcement made by the Hon'ble Finance Minister during the budget speech of the year 2004-05, proposals were requested from various States by the Ministry of Urban Development for setting up of Desalination plants in the urban areas along Coromandel coast. The proposals received from various States and their status is given in Annexure. The Planning Commission opines that the aforesaid scheme can be considered under the new scheme of Urban Infrastructure Development Scheme for Small and Medium Towns (UIDSSMT)/ Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM).

Government of Tamil Nadu/ Chennai Metropolitan Water Supply & Sewerage Board (CMWSSB) have entered into a Bulk Water Purchase Agreement with M/s IVCR in association with M/s BEFESA Construction Y Tecnologia Ambiental, Spain for setting up of a 100 ML Desalination Plant at Minjur near Chennai on Design, Build, Own, Operate and Transfer (DBOOT) basis. Environmental clearance from Ministry of Environment & Forests is awaited. In regard to laying of pipeline from the proposed desalination plant, Chennai Metro Water Supply and Sewerage Board has called for tenders for 1100 mm dia DI pipe (K9) for a length of 25 km.

(b) & (c) Under JNNURM and UIDSSMT programmes launched in December 2005, State /UT Governments can propose/install Desalination Plants and to avail Central assistance, the guidelines envisage setting up of such schemes within 20 kms from sea shore and other urban areas predominantly facing water scarcity due to brackish water and non-availability of surface source. So far, the Ministry of Urban Development has not received any proposal from Government of Pondicherry for setting up of Desalination Plant at Karaikal.

Annexure referred in Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 2167 due for reply on 10th March 2006 (As per Central Public Health & Environmental Engineering Organization, CPHEEO, Ministry of Urban Development)

Desalination based Water Supply Schemes approved by Ministry of Urban Development in Coromandel Coast

Name of the State/ Town	Popul- ation	Capa- city	Date of Technical approval	Estimate cost (Rs lakh)	Funds allocated	Period	Remarks

rnment

Tamil nadu

Ramanathapuram 52879 2.50 29/1/2005 2009 1741\$ Nil 2 years Scheme returned
to State for
posing under
Keelakarai 29928 UIDSSMT/ JNNURM

Andhra Pradesh

Bheemunipatnam 42054 2.86 1155 635\$ - do
Bapatla 68103 2.00 1150 NA Scheme returned
to the State
Govt. as per
capita supply is
more than 70
lpcd
Chirala 53455 2.00 1123 NA - do

Orissa

Gopalpur 5403 0.50 31/1/2006 483 461 # 115.41 2 years Financial
sanction issued
on 23/2/05 under
AUWSP

Pondicherry

Muthialpet, 40000 4.00 28/1/2005 1350 1074\$ Nil 2 years Scheme returned
Pondicherry to State Govt.
for posing under
UIDSSMT/JNNURM

NA – Not Approved AUWSP – Accelerated Urban Water Supply Programme

\$: Financial sanction could not be issued for want of decision regarding financing of the scheme

#: Gopalpur Town had a population less than 20,000, therefore, considered under AUWSP scheme and funds released. But the State has requested for 100% financing.