

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3614
ANSWERED ON:18.12.2006
DESALINATION OF WATER
Joshi Shri Pralhad Venkatesh

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) The schemes for desalination of hard water into potable water for drinking purposes implemented in the country during the last two years, State-wise ;
- (b) Whether the Government is seeking financial assistance for such schemes from international financial institutes like Asian Development Bank & International Monetary Fund ;
- (c) If so, the details of funds received and disbursed to various State during the said period, State-wise;
- (d) Whether the Government of Karnataka has sent any specific projects for desalination of water during the last two years; and
- (e) If so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto ?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV)

(a) The Department of Drinking Water Supply, Ministry of Rural Development has informed that the drinking water supply is a State Subject and Government of India assists the States technically and financially through the Centrally Sponsored Scheme `Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP)` for providing safe drinking water in adequate quantity to all rural habitations in the country. State Governments are empowered to sanction and implement projects including Desalination plants. Till 2005-06, 15% of ARWSP funds released to the State every year could be utilized for tackling water quality problems including salinity. Further, the Department of Drinking Water Supply, Ministry of Rural Development have informed that no State Government has reported installation of desalination plants during the last 2 years. In Kavaratti island of

UT of Lakshadweep, a 1000 cum/day capacity `Low temperature Thermal Desalination Plant` has been installed by National Institute of Ocean Technology

(NIOT), Chennai, at a capital cost of Rs. 4.95 crore. This was fully funded by NIOT, Chennai as a pilot project. In Andaman & Nicobar Islands, 10 Reverse Osmosis based Desalination plants were sanctioned and funds released to Central Ground Water Board for installation as a post-Tsunami water supply restoration measure.

(b) As informed by Department of Drinking Water Supply, Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India has not sought any assistance from international financial institutions like Asian Development Bank, International Monetary Fund for installation of desalination plants.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The Department of Drinking Water Supply, Ministry of Rural Development have informed that no proposal from Government of Karnataka has been received for projects on desalination during the last 2 years.

(e) Does not arise.