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Title: Need to expedite construction of proposed desalination plants in six islands of Lakshadweep.

SHRI HAMDULLAH SAYEED (LAKSHADWEEP): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the House and the Government to the fact that the Desalination Plant Project which was built in Kavaratti Island, Lakshadweep, which is my constituency, was started in the year 2005. It has the capacity of generating about one lakh litres of water which is fit for drinking and for other household purposes. The saline water is made potable water by this Desalination Plant. There is a proposal to construct six to seven more Desalination Plants in various Islands. But the contractors who are doing job find some problems. The first plant was built in eight months but the subsequent plants which were there in the pipeline are still not completed. When contacted, when we enquired from the competent authority, the Department, they say that there is some problem with the contractors. So, I would urge upon the Government that if there is a problem with the erring contractors, there should be penalty which should be imposed against those erring contractors.

There should be a stipulated time frame and period within which these desalination plants can be completed and potable water can be generated for those who are living in these isolated tribal islands. Therefore, I would urge the Government to immediately intervene by issuing time limit to ensure that these desalination plants are built so that the local Schedule Tribe islanders get potable water for their usage, and also penalty may be imposed on the erring contractors and stipulated time period may be fixed.