

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF JAL SHAKTI
DEPARTMENT OF DRINKING WATER & SANITATION

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 575
TO BE ANSWERED ON 12.12.2022

Setting up of desalination plant at Mangaluru

575 Shri Aneel Prasad Hegde:

Will the Minister of JAL SHAKTI be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of desalination plants Government proposes to set up in coastal districts and capacity of the Mangaluru desalination plant, the details thereof;
- (b) whether thousands of TMC water from dozens of rivers flow from western ghats through this district into Arabian Sea without efforts to conserve water at source; and
- (c) whether 'Project Ettinahole' is underway for pumping water from the Netravati river of this district through western ghats to supply drinking water to eastern districts of the State destroying environment in the process, if so, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR JAL SHAKTI
(SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL)

(a) "Water supply" is a State subject and the powers to plan, approve and implement water supply schemes, including setting up of desalination plants for drinking water, lies with respective State Governments. As per the operational guidelines of the JJM, in coastal areas, augmentation of water supply services can be done with energy efficient small desalination plants with high recovery ratio. As per the information available, none of the States/ UTs have set up desalination plants for drinking water purposes under the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM). Only the Union territory of Lakshadweep, in its Annual Action Plan for 2022-23, has proposed installation of 5 low temperature Thermal Desalination Plants with 1.5 lakh litre capacity for meeting the drinking water supply norms as per the JJM.

As informed by the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, Mangalore Refinery and Petrochemicals Limited (MRPL) has recently commissioned a Sea Water Desalination Plant with capacity of 30 Million Litres per Day (MLD) scalable up to 70 MLD, to convert seawater into water required for the refinery processes. The plant would reduce the dependency on Netravati river for fresh water needs of the Mangalore refinery complex.

(b) Initiatives on water management including water conservation is primarily State's responsibility. Under JJM, apart from creation of in-village water supply infrastructure based on ground water, provisions have been made for development/ strengthening/ augmentation of drinking water sources; and infrastructure for bulk transfer of water, treatment and distribution systems in water deficit, drought-prone and desert areas without dependable ground water sources.

In addition, provisions for taking up augmentation and strengthening of local drinking water sources in convergence with other schemes at village level viz. MGNREGS, 15th Finance Commission tied grants to RLBs/ PRIs, Integrated Watershed Management Programme

(IWMP), State schemes, District Mineral Development Fund, CSR funds, community contribution, etc. is also envisaged under the JJM.

(c) As per the information provided by the State, Yettinahole Lift Irrigation Project is a state project, funded and executed by the state of Karnataka. The project was approved by the Government of Karnataka on 17.02.2014 for Rs.12912.36 crores. It aims to divert 24.01 TMC of surplus water from west flowing streams of Western Ghats to provide drinking water to 6557 villages and 38 towns in 29 taluks of 7 drought prone districts of Chikkaballapur, Kolar, Chikkamagalur, Hassan, Tumkur, Ramanagar and Bangalore Rural. The project will utilize 15.029 TMC for the same. Further, it will utilize 8.967 TMC to fill 527 Minor Irrigation Tanks of 5 districts (Chikkaballapur, Kolar, Hassan, Tumkur, and Bangalore Rural). There is no impact on Environment since only 13.93 Hectares of Forest area is being diverted for this project. Since this is a drinking water supply scheme, it does not attract the provisions of EIA notification 2006 and its subsequent amendment of 2009. Hence this project is exempted from environmental clearance. Stage-I clearance for acquisition of 13.93 Ha of forest land required for the first phase has been obtained with some conditions from Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change on 29.01.2016. Stage-II clearance has been obtained with some conditions from MoEFCC on 15.09.2016. NGT has given permission to go ahead with the works on 05.10.2017.
