

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 2313
TO BE ANSWERED ON WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 26, 2018**

**2313. SHRIMATI KAMLA DEVI PAATLE:
SHRI MANSHANKAR NINAMA:**

Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has proposed any scheme to install desalination plants in large number in the coastal areas of the country to make sea water potable;**
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the time by which the said scheme is likely to be implemented;**
- (c) the details of per litre cost of the water thus made potable by these plants;**
- (d) the location-wise details of desalination plants installed so far and proposed to be installed in future; and**
- (e) the steps taken to popularise the technology related to converting sea water into potable water?**

**ANSWER
MINISTER OF MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND
MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES
(DR. HARSH VARDHAN)**

- (a) No, Madam.**
- (b) Ministry of Earth Sciences has no scheme as of now to set up a large number of desalination plants in the coastal areas of the country for producing drinking water from sea water. However, three desalination plants have been developed and demonstrated, based on the Low Temperature Thermal Desalination (LTTD) technology indigenously by the National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT), an autonomous body of the Ministry of Earth Sciences. In addition, work orders have been issued for setting up six desalination plants in Lakshadweep islands.**
- (c) The cost per liter of desalination would depend on the technology used and cost of electricity which varies from place to place. According to the cost estimates made by an independent agency for LTTD technology, the operational costs per litre of desalinated potable water is about 61 paise for island based plants.**

- (d) Three desalination plants, based on LTTD technology have been successfully commissioned by NIOT one each at Kavaratti, Minicoy, and Agatti islands of the Union Territory of Lakshadweep. Work orders have been issued for setting up desalination plants in Amini, Androth, Chetlat, Kadmat, Kalpeni and Kiltan islands of Lakshadweep.**
- (e) Information about the desalination program and technology has been disseminated through newspapers, pamphlets, websites and annual reports of Ministry of Earth Sciences and National Institute of Ocean Technology. The models of LTTD plants setup by NIOT are displayed in all the major exhibitions and important science forums.**
