

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF JAL SHAKTI
DEPARTMENT OF DRINKING WATER & SANITATION
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2428
TO BE ANSWERED ON 05.03.2020**

Desalination Plants

2428. DR. SHASHI THAROOR:

Will the Minister of JAL SHAKTI be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government is planning to set up desalination plants along India's 7,800 km coastline to make sea water potable and supply it via a network of pipelines in and around the coastal cities and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Government has sustainable plans ready to reduce the likely massive water and energy footprint of the desalination plants, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) the proposed provisions to save the underwater ecosystem from the brine and other by-products which are likely to be released into the sea during the process;
- (d) whether Thiruvananthapuram is to be considered suitable as one of the coastal cities to have desalination plants in the country; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF JAL SHAKTI
(SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA)**

(a) Rural drinking water supply is a State subject and Government of India assists States by providing financial and technical assistance to provide potable water to rural population through the centrally sponsored JalJeevan Mission (JJM). Powers to plan, approve, and implement rural drinking water supply schemes are vested with States.

(b) to (e) The setting up of desalination plant is site specific which depends upon various factors viz. salinity of feed water, choice of desalination process/technology, site conditions and energy cost, etc. and decided by respective States.

As per the information received from the Ministry of Earth Sciences, a pilot project has been approved for setting up OTEC (Ocean Thermal Energy Conversion) powered low temperature thermal desalination plant with a capacity of producing one lakh litre of potable water per day at Kavaratti in Lakshadweep. This does not envisage diesel generator and external power except for starting the system. No brine formation occurs in the technology developed by the Ministry of Earth Sciences using temperature difference in sea water and deep sea water.
