

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES  
RAJYA SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 2568  
TO BE ANSWERED ON THURSDAY, DECEMBER 08, 2016**

**DESALINATION OF SEA WATER**

**2568. SHRI D.KUPENDRA REDDY:**

**Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether Government is aware that desalination of sea water is possible on a large scale;**
- (b) if so, the details of cost involved in desalination of specific quantity of sea water;**
- (c) the desalination plants established and functioning in the country, State/UTwise;**
- (d) whether Government proposes to take up large scale desalination of sea water to meet the drinking and irrigation requirements of coastal India; and**
- (e) if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor?**

**ANSWER**

**MINISTER OF STATE FOR MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND  
MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES  
(SHRI. Y. S. CHOWDARY)**

- (a) Yes, Sir.**
- (b) 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 Low Temperature Thermal Desalination (LTTD) technology indigenously developed and demonstrated by the National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT), an autonomous body of the Ministry of Earth Sciences, the operational costs per litre of desalinated potable water is about 61 paise for island based plants.**
- (c) 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. The capacity of each of these LTTD plants is 1 lakh litre of potable water per day. One experimental LTTD plant using condenser waste heat from power plant was set up at North Chennai Thermal Power Station (NCTPS).**
- (d) Yes, Sir.**
- (e) The Lakshadweep Administration requested NIOT for setting up of similar LTTD plants of 1 lakh litre of potable water per day capacity in remaining six islands. NIOT has sent a detailed project report with a fund requirement of Rs. 280.01 crores to the Lakshadweep Administration in this regard.**

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