

Setting up of desalination plant At Chennai

1442. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre has worked on desalination technologies and has experience in erecting large-scale desalination plants;

(b) if so, the details of plants erected by them to help drinking water problem; and

(c) whether they would participate in the proposed desalination plants to be set up in Chennai that would produce 300 million litres of potable water a day?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC) has set up a Reverse Osmosis (RO) Desalination Plant with a capacity of 18 (eighteen) lakh litres per day as a part of Nuclear Desalination Demonstration Project (NDDP), Kalpakkam, Tamil Nadu for sea water desalination which is operating satisfactorily. Another plant of the project is being set up by using Multi-Stage Flash (MSF) technology with a capacity of 45 lakh literes/day at Madras Atomic Power Station (MAPS), Kalpakkam.

BARC has also set up Desalination Plants at Sheelgaon village in Barmer district (Rajasthan) [30,000 litres/day capacity] and Satlana village in Jodhpur district (30,000 litres/day capacity) in cooperation with Defence Laboratory, Jodhpur (Rajasthan) for providing drinking water from bore well/ brackish water sources.

(c) BARC may provide technical support in the proposed desalination plants to be set up in Chennai, if required.

Royalties on coal

1443. SHRI PYARIMOHAN MOHAPATRA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) considering that the ratio between royalties for higher and inferior rates in coals as in the year 1971 has progressively declined against the

inferior varieties to successive revision of royalty whether Government propose to consider restoration of the earlier ratio of 1971; and

(b) if so, within what time-frame and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) and (b) The increase in royalty rates had been steeper in the higher grades of coal *vis-a-vis* the increase in lower grades from 1971 to 2002.

To effect larger increase in royalty rates for superior grades of coal is a conscious decision taken by the Government *inter-alia* for reason of conservation.

Black marketing of coal

1444. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA:

DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a rampant black-marketing of coal in the market encouraged by a massive ring of mafia leaders in connivance with officials of the Coal Companies and Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have analysed the basic reasons for black-marketing on such a gigantic scale and if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) to (d) In general there are no complaints of black marketing of coal supplied to core sector industries like power utilities, steel, cement industries. Core sector linkages are operated through a regime of Fuel Supply Agreements. Coal to non-core sector consumers is released based on the past linkages and sponsorship by State Governments and also under Open Sales Scheme as and when surplus coal is available.

The non-core linkages are verified from time to time by the Vigilance Departments of State Governments and vigilance wings of coal companies