

of corrupt public servants is done by applying the provisions of Criminal Law (Amendment) Ordinance, 1944. Further, the offences under sections 7, 8, 9, 10 and 13 of the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 are scheduled offences under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002 (PMLA). These offences are covered under paragraph 5 of Part B of the Schedule to PMLA, whereby only the offences where the total value in such offences is Rs. 30 lakhs or more are covered under the said Act. The Government has introduced the Prevention of Money Laundering (Amendment) Bill, 2011 in Lok Sabha on 27.12.2011, whereby the said offences under the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 are proposed to be moved from Part B to Part A (as Paragraph 8) of the Schedule to the Act and thus the threshold limit of Rs. 30 lakhs shall not be applicable, once the amendment is carried out.

The Lokpal and Lokayuktas Bill, 2011, which has been passed by the Lok Sabha on 27.12.2011 and presently stands referred to the Select Committee of the Rajya Sabha, also provides for confiscation of property of the corrupt public servants. Clauses 29 and 30 of the Bill provide for attachment of assets acquired by corrupt means whereas Clause 31 of the Bill provides for confiscation of assets, proceeds, receipts and benefits arising or procured by means of corruption.

Service charge on actual bills of restaurants

*375. SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that almost all the restaurants in Delhi and Mumbai are charging 10 per cent service charge on actual bills which is then distributed amongst waiters;

(b) if so, the rule or Act under which such a provision exists for charging 10 per cent service charge is levied on customers;

(c) whether it is unfair to levy service charge which is not accounted for while filing Income-tax returns by restaurants; and

(d) whether Government would come out with a policy on charging of service rendered by restaurants and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (c) Some Hotels/Restaurants levy a service charge on the billed amount which is expected to be disbursed to their employees in lieu of tips and gratuities. The treatment given to service charges in the accounts of each establishment is verifiable on a case to case basis.

(d) No such policy is under consideration, since the levy of service charge is not imposed or collected by the Government.

Conversion of sea water into potable water

*376. DR. V. MAITREYAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the sea water could be converted into potable water by means of atomic energy;

(b) if so, whether Government has set up/proposes to set up any such project;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the per litre cost of conversion of sea water into potable water by atomic energy; and

(e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by Government for large scale conversion of sea water into potable water?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI V. NARAYANSAMY): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. An eighteen lakh (18 lakh) litres per day capacity desalination plant operating on the Reverse Osmosis (RO) process has been setup, as part of Nuclear Desalination Demonstration Project (NDDP) at Kalpakkam, Tamil Nadu. Another plant, a Multi-Stage Flash (MSF) Desalination Plant with a capacity of forty five lakh (45 lakh) litres per day has also been setup at Kalpakkam as a part of NDDP. It is located adjacent to Madras Atomic Power Station (MAPS) and uses low pressure steam as energy input for MSF desalination plant. The hybrid MSF-RO plant is operated to produce distilled water for high end industrial applications and potable water for drinking and other applications.

(d) The per litre cost of conversion of seawater into potable water by atomic energy varies between 5 & 10 paise depending on site conditions, end product quality and the technology in use.

(e) The technology for setting up desalination plants is available with the Government in the Department of Atomic Energy for large scale conversion of sea water into potable water.

KVICs programme in Assam

*377. SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA: Will the Minister of MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES be pleased to state: