

(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:

(a) whether Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) has chalked out any programme for promotion and development of enterprises in Assam, especially in the minority areas, under the Prime Minister's 15 Point Programme;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) to (c) Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) has not chalked out any specific programme as such under Prime Minister's 15 point programme for promotion and development of enterprises in Assam. However, KVIC is implementing a credit-linked subsidy programme named Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP) in the country including Assam for setting up micro-enterprises in the non-farm sector. Under PMEGP, general category beneficiaries can avail of margin money subsidy of 25% of the project cost in rural areas and 15% in urban areas. For beneficiaries belonging to special categories such as scheduled castes, scheduled tribes, OBCs, minorities, women, ex-servicemen, physically handicapped, beneficiaries belonging to NER (North Eastern Region), hill and border areas, *etc.*, the margin money subsidy is 35% in rural areas and 25% in urban areas. The beneficiary contribution is 10% in the case of general category beneficiaries and 5% in the case of beneficiaries belonging to special categories. Balance of the project cost is provided through Bank loan. The maximum cost of projects is Rs.25 lakh in the manufacturing sector and Rs. 10 lakh in the service sector.

Higher margin money subsidy and lower beneficiary contribution is provided for in the case of special category beneficiaries including those from NER and those belonging to minorities. The details of margin money subsidy utilized and units assisted in Assam in the last three years are given below:

Year	Margin money subsidy utilized (in Rs. lakh)	No. of units assisted (Number)	Margin money subsidy utilised in respect of Minorities (in Rs. lakh)	No. of units assisted in respect of Minorities (Number)
2009-10	1895.36	2430	311.23	346
2010-11	4808.10	4756	1596.36	746
2011-12(P)	5545.02	5280	903.77	710