

LTTD plants in Karnataka

1615. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has conducted any survey in coastal areas of Karnataka for setting up of Low Temperature Thermal Desalination (LTTD) plants to overcome the drinking water problem in such areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, whether Government proposes to do so in the near future and set up LTTD based desalination plants in coastal Karnataka?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) No, Sir. The thermal gradient of 12°C -14°C between surface and deep sea water required to set up a Low Temperature Thermal Desalination (LTTD) plant is not available near the Karnataka coast and therefore no survey was conducted for setting up LTTD plants.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

Area specific weather forecasting

1616. SHRI D. P. TRIPATHI: Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that farmers could not plan sowing of the crops at right time due to non-availability of area-specific weather forecasting;

(b) the details of losses incurred by farmers due to lack of information regarding weather; and

(c) the steps Government would take to issue such forecasts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) No Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Integrated Agro-meteorological Advisory Service (IAAS) of the India Meteorological Department (IMD) has been successful in providing the crop

specific advisories to the farmers at the district level twice weekly through different print/visual/Radio/ IT based wider dissemination media including short message service (SMS) and Integrated Voice Response System (IVRS). A third party evaluation carried out by the National Center for Applied Economic Research (NCAER) has brought out the usefulness of the mobile and IVRS usage in dissemination of advisories on different farming operations. The report says that the farmers find the information disseminated, through the effective IT dissemination modes, very useful. At present, the IAAS products are disseminated through SMS and IVRS to 3.0 million farmers in the country through Public-Private Partnership (PPP) mode.

Cost of desalination plants

†1617. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of cost of a plant to convert sea water into drinking water; and

(b) the details of per litre cost and the quantity of drinking water which can be produced daily from such plants?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) and (b) The cost of plant to convert sea water into drinking water would depend on the type of technology, capacity of the plant, location and cost of electricity which varies from place to place. National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT) an autonomous body of the Ministry of Earth Sciences has indigenously designed, developed and demonstrated conversion of sea water into potable water based on Low Temperature Thermal Desalination (LTTD) technology. The cost of LTTD plant in Lakshadweep is about Rs 20 crore for producing 1 lakh liter of potable water per day and in coastal power plant at mainland is estimated to be Rs 40 crore for producing 2 million liters of potable water per day. According to the cost estimates made recently by an independent agency for LTTD technology, the operational costs per litre of desalinated potable water is about 19 paise for island based plants.

Observer status on arctic council

1618. SHRI. H. K. DUA: Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.