

- Provision of extensive capacity building of the stake holders like Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs), Village Water and Sanitation Committees (VWSCs) and field functionaries for sustainable sanitation.

(c) and (d) NBA goal is to achieve 100% access to sanitation for all rural households by 2022. With the revised strategy under NBA, the Government of India hopes to achieve the set targets.

#### **Promotion of desalination plants**

1451. SHRI K.N. BALAGOPAL: Will the Minister of DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has plans to promote desalination plants in the country, to address the ever increasing drinking water problem;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number and the capacity of desalination plants working in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation has advised States to move towards provision of drinking water supply to rural households based on alternate safe surface/ groundwater sources as the long term sustainable solution. It was also suggested that adoption of treatment technologies including desalination may be considered as the last option when other options are either not available or uneconomical.

(c) As per information available from Ministry of Earth Sciences, four desalination plants based on Low Temperature Thermal Desalination (LTTD) Technology have been established one each at Kavaratti, Minicoy, Agatti islands of Lakshadweep and another at North Chennai Thermal Power Station, Chennai. The capacity of each of these LTTD plants is about 1 lakh litres of potable water per day.

#### **Nirmal Bharat Abhiyan in Jharkhand**

1452. DR. PRADEEP KUMAR BALMUCHU: Will the Minister of DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has undertaken any programmes under Nirmal Bharat Abhiyan in Jharkhand;