

- (c) whether the Government proposes to set up more such plants, in the country;
- (d) if so, the details thereof, State/UT-wise including Karnataka; and
- (e) the details of the cost of conversion of sea water into potable water and the details of the cost sharing between the Centre and the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI Y. S. CHOWDARY) : (a) Yes, Sir. The Earth System Science Organization (ESSO) - National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT), has indigenously designed, developed and demonstrated desalination plants for conversion of sea water into potable water based on Low Temperature Thermal Desalination (LTTD) technology. The LTTD is a process under which the warm surface sea water is flash evaporated at low pressure and the vapour is condensed with cold deep sea water. This technology is efficient and found suitable for the Lakshadweep Islands.

(b) Three LTTD plants have been successfully commissioned in the country, one each at Kavaratti, Minicoy and Agatti Islands of the Union Territory of Lakshadweep. The capacity of each of these LTTD plants is 1 lakh litre of potable water per day. One experimental LTTD plant using condenser waste heat from power plant was set up at North Chennai Thermal Power Station (NCTPS).

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Work has been initiated to set up a prototype LTTD plant with a capacity of generating 2 million litres of potable water per day (2 MLD) at the Tuticorin Thermal Power station, Tamil Nadu. The Lakshadweep Administration requested ESSO-NIOT for Setting up similar plants in remaining six islands. ESSO-NIOT has sent a detailed project report to the Lakshadweep Administration in this regard. The proposal has not been approved so far.

(e) The cost per litre of desalination would depend on the technology used and cost of electricity which varies from place to place. According to the cost estimates made by an independent agency for LTTD technology, the operational costs per litre of desalinated potable water is about 61 paise for island based plants. The plants set up at Lakshadweep were funded fully by the Central Government.

Pollution on Delhi's edge Kaushambi

340. SHRI BAISHNAB PARIDA : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether on the Delhi's edge Kaushambi and such other locations there is heaviest toxic air even more than Delhi;

(b) whether industrial areas, land-fills, garbage, etc., are the main reasons of such pollution;

(c) whether such townships are equally disturbing and vitiating the environment of Delhi; and

(d) whether Government has devised some action plan to address this serious issue and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR) : (a) Kaushambi is a residential colony in Ghaziabad district of Uttar Pradesh, adjacent to Delhi. The ambient air quality in Ghaziabad is regularly monitored at four locations by the Uttar Pradesh Pollution Control Board (UPPCB). As per information provided by UPPCB, the levels of Particulate Matter (PM₁₀) exceed the prescribed norms of 60 mg/m³ (annual average) whereas the levels of Sulphur Dioxide and Nitrogen Dioxide are within the prescribed norms (annual average).

(b) As per UPPCB, vehicular emission is main cause of air pollution while other causes include industrial emissions, construction activities, infrastructure development, generators, etc.

(c) Delhi Pollution Control Committee has not undertaken any study in this regard.

(d) The UPPCB has drawn an action plan for improving the environmental quality in Ghaziabad. The said Action Plan includes various inter-department activities for addressing the water pollution, air pollution and land pollution.

Proposal for online processing of projects

341. SHRI PAUL MANOJ PANDIAN : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is processing over 2,200 project proposals online which means that there is transparency in it and if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether it is also a fact that Government has turned the Ministry from a license permit road block to a people friendly facilitator and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR) : (a) Yes Sir. The Ministry has started online application process for granting Environmental Clearance to the projects.