

Setting up of desalinisation plants

1534. SHRI SYED NASIR HUSSAIN: Will the Minister of JAL SHAKTI be pleased to state:

- (a) the steps taken to promote desalinisation of water in States where ever possible;
- (b) the States which can be benefitted from desalinisation;
- (c) the cost of setting up of a desalinisation plant; and
- (d) the assistance required, if any, from any other country for setting up of desalinisation plants?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF JAL SHAKTI (SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA): (a) Drinking water supply is a State subject and Government of India assists States by providing financial and technical assistance to provide potable water to rural population through centrally sponsored scheme Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM). Powers to plan, approve, and implement rural water supply schemes are vested with States.

(b) Coast States/UTs with access to seawater can set up the desalination plant.

(c) The cost of desalination plant depends on a number of factors *inter alia* which includes technology used and cost of electricity. The actual cost of setting up of a desalination plant can be discovered through tendering process.

(d) The States can seek assistance from other country as per laid down procedures.

Deadline for cleaning of river Ganga

1535. SHRI DEREK O' BRIEN: Will the Minister of JAL SHAKTI be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the deadline for cleaning up the river Ganga has been revised the second time from 2019 to 2020 and finally to 2021; and
- (b) if so, the reasons for the delay and extension thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF JAL SHAKTI (SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA): (a) and (b) Government of India is supplementing the efforts of the State Governments in addressing the challenges of pollution of river Ganga by providing financial and technical assistance.