

Panchayats can offer drinking water at 20 paise per litre

If drinking water supply is undertaken through people's participation, pure water can be made available at 20 paise per litre. The point was made by N. Balagopal, national executive chairman of Confederation of NGOs of Rural India (CNRI) at the get-together of Thiruvananthapuram based NGOs on April 29. CNRI is planning to set up 100 water stations in the state in the next two years with the financial and technical support of ANaRDe Foundation, Gujarat. Panchayats and NGOs have been identified as the implementing agencies.

The project requirements are land (30'x30'), accessible to all, an RCC room (20'x20') for installation of the plant, a bore well which can provide 27,000 litres water per day throughout the year, disposal provision for impure water and a three-phase power connection. The panchayats have to provide Rs 1.50 lakh for the RCC room and Rs 50,000 for the borewell. They will also have to spend Rs five lakh for the plant and the machinery.

The treatment plants can be set up in different models, depending on the size and requirement of the population. Besides identifying needy villages, convincing people and organising finance, CNRI and ANaRDe will appoint trained operators and helpers to supervise and monitor working of the plant, organise after-sales services, collect revenue, review monthly income and expenditure and repay the loan as per terms.