

IVRCL plans desalting plants across country

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AFTER the successful implementation of a desalination project for Chennai Metrowater, IVRCL Assets and Holdings, part of city-based IVRCL Group, has now set its eyes on other coastal cities for similar projects.

According to Managing Director of IVRCL Assets and Holdings S Ramachandran said the company is awaiting tenders to come out soon in three coastal cities.

"We are expecting tenders to come out from certain coastal located states and will definitely pitch for the same. Though the process shall be slow, going forward we expect to have a first mover advantage in this growing market for desalinated water worldwide," Ramachandran told PTI.

The 100 mld (million litre a day) desalination plant at Minjur to the north of Chennai has been established by Chennai Water

Desalination (CWDL), a joint venture of IVRCL Assets & Holdings, and Befesa India, a subsidiary of Befesa Construccion Tecnologia Ambiental, Spain.

The desalination plant will fetch about Rs 46-48 lakh per day at the operating level of 95 per cent capacity, Ramachandra said.

"In terms of locations for desalination plants, we do see possibilities in Mumbai, Vizag and Kerala to begin with," he said.

He said recession had an adverse affect on daily collection of BOT (build operate and transfer) projects which now averages to Rs 67-69 lakh, including the Chennai Desalination plant. The company's operational asset portfolio consists of three road projects and two water projects.

Besides, the company is scouting for a strategic investor for its Maharashtra-Goa highway project worth Rs 3,100 crore and is mulling to offload some of its land bank to infuse capital for further investments.

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