

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE**

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2180
TO BE ANSWERED ON 1ST JANUARY, 2019**

RISK POSED BY EXCESSIVE FLUORIDE IN WATER

2180. SHRI HARSHVARDHAN SINGH DUNGARPUR:

Will the Minister of **HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that nearly 66 million people in 20 States are at high risk due to excessive fluoride in water;
- (b) whether it is also a fact that permissible limit of fluoride in water is only 1 mg. per litre but in Delhi it is 32 mg. which is too high;
- (c) the reasons of worst hit of fluoride in Rajasthan, Gujarat and Andhra Pradesh causing nearly 6 million children below 14 to suffer from dental, skeletal and non-skeletal fluoride; and
- (d) the steps taken to reduce fluoride in these States?

ANSWER

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND
FAMILY WELFARE
(SMT. ANUPRIYA PATEL)**

- (a): As per Integrated Management Information System (IMIS) of Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation (MDWS), approximately 74.33 lakhs (7.43 million) people living in 10,067 habitations in 16 States of the country are at risk of Fluorosis due to excessive Fluoride in drinking water (as on 01.04.2018).
- (b): The Permissible limit for Fluoride in drinking water, as per BIS is 1.5 mg/ litre and desirable limit for Fluoride in drinking water is 1.0 mg / litre. The Fluoride level in drinking water in Delhi, is not available through the IMIS of Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation.
- (c): The reasons for fluoride in groundwater are considered to be fluoride-bearing minerals such as fluorspar, fluorapatite , cryolite, and hydroxylapatite in rocks. Some anthropogenic activities such as use of fertilizers, pesticides etc. for agriculture have also been indicated to cause an increase in fluoride concentration in ground water. As per reports received from States under the National Programme for Prevention and Control of Fluorosis (NPPCF), 0.49 million (4,94,710) school going children suffer from Dental Fluorosis.

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(d): Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation (MDWS) is continuously striving to provide safe drinking water to areas affected by water contamination due to high fluoride levels.

To deal with arsenic and fluoride contamination, with recommendation of National Institution for Transforming India (NITI Aayog), Government of India had released Rs.1,000 crore in March 2016 for commissioning of Community Water Purification Plans (CWPPs) and last mile connectivity of Piped water supply schemes.

In addition, the Ministry of Drinking Water & Sanitation had launched National Water Quality Sub-Mission (NWQSM) on 22.03.17 to provide safe drinking water to 27,544 arsenic/fluoride affected rural habitations in a span of 4 years, subject to availability of funds.

Besides, to manage the problem of Fluorosis, a National Programme for Prevention and Control of Fluorosis (NPPCF) is being implemented by Ministry of Health & Family Welfare since 11th Five Year Plan (2008-09) and has been progressively expanded to 156 districts of 19 States.

The Strategy under the NPPCF Programme includes Surveillance of Fluorosis in the community; capacity building (Human Resource) in the form of training and manpower support; establishment of diagnostic facilities in the districts; health education for prevention and control of Fluorosis; management of Fluorosis cases including supplementation with Vitamins & minerals, surgery and rehabilitation and interacting with PHED Department of State / District for providing safe drinking water to the Fluorosis affected community.