

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF DRINKING WATER & SANITATION
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1666
TO BE ANSWERED ON 20/12/2018**

FLUORIDE CONTAMINATION OF WATER

1666. SHRI ANURAG SINGH THAKUR:

Will the Minister of DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the presence of fluoride in the water of various areas of the country has been detected and is several times higher than the prescribed norms;
- (b) if so, whether the Government has collected any data or has conducted any survey on this serious issue in the country or sought any information, if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to control the fluoride contaminated water across the country?

**ANSWER
MINISTER OF STATE
IN THE MINISTRY OF DRINKING WATER & SANITATION
(SHRI RAMESH CHANDAPPA JIGAJINAGI)**

(a) to (C): This Ministry supplements the efforts of the States by providing them with technical and financial assistance through the centrally sponsored scheme National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP). It is the State Governments who plan, design, approve, execute, operate & maintain the schemes for providing safe drinking water to rural population. The funds provided to the States under NRDWP can be utilized for taking up schemes in water quality affected areas on priority. Up to 5% of funds under NRDWP can be used for Water Quality Monitoring and Surveillance purposes which inter alia includes testing of drinking water samples.

State Governments are testing drinking water samples regularly. As reported by the States in Integrated Management Information System (IMIS) of the Ministry, 9,672 habitations are affected by excess fluoride as on 31.03.2018.

To deal with arsenic and fluoride contamination, with the recommendation of National Institution for Transforming India (NITI Aayog), Government of India had released Rs.1,000 Crore in March, 2016. In addition, the Ministry had launched National Water Quality Sub-Mission (NWQSM) on 22.03.17 to provide safe drinking water to about 27,544 arsenic / fluoride affected rural habitations, subject to availability of funds.
