

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3631
TO BE ANSWERED ON 21st MARCH, 2025**

KIDNEY, CANCER AND LIVER DISEASES

3631. SHRI DILESHWAR KAMAIT:

Will the **MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the increased presence of fluoride and harmful chemical in drinking water polluted by floods in Supaul, Madhepura, Saharsa, Jhanjharpur and Araria districts bordering Koshi region of Bihar is becoming a major center of cancer kidney and liver diseases;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the preventive measures taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

ANSWER

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
(SHRI PRATAPRAO JADHAV)**

(a) and (b): As informed by State Government of Bihar, the identified fluoride affected districts in Bihar are Aurangabad, Banka, Bhagalpur, Gaya, Jamui, Kaimur, Munger, Nalanda, Nawada, Rohtas and Sheikhpura. 15 Districts in Bihar are highly flood affected as per Bihar State Disaster Management Authority. The flood affected districts namely Supaul, Madhepura, Saharsa, Jhanjharpur and Araria have not been declared as fluoride affected districts.

(c): Water being a State subject, the responsibility of planning, approval, implementation, operation & maintenance of drinking water supply schemes, including those under the Jal Jeevan Mission, is vested with respective State/UT Governments. The Union Ministry of Jal Shakti supports the States by providing technical and financial assistance through its programmes.

Fluoride enters the body through various food items, environmental substance, drinking water etc. An excessive amount of fluoride in drinking water exposes people to risks of crippling skeletal and/ or dental fluorosis.

The Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) is implemented in partnership with States, including Bihar, to supply potable tap water in adequate quantity, prescribed quality and on regular and long-term basis to rural households.

All habitations affected by chemical contaminants including fluoride in rural area of the country, including Bihar is provided safe drinking water free from Fluoride contamination.

There are robust network of 2,182 drinking water quality testing laboratories at different levels viz. State, Regional, District, sub-division and/ or block level in the country. States/UTs have been advised to carry out testing of water quality on a regular basis and take remedial action wherever necessary to ensure that the water supplied to households is of prescribed quality.
