

Through you, I want to draw the attention of the Government and of the House to an important public health problem.

This issue is brought to my notice by an article written on 1st April by Indian Express. I convey my thanks to the press.

Over 25,000 children and adults have been affected by the excessively high level of fluoride content in drinking water in the fluorosis villages of Amreli district in Gujarat, and in many other parts of our country.

In 1986 under the National Drinking Water Mission, a sub-Mission was formed to tackle the problem which affected roughly 25 million people in 8,700 villages. Thirteen States like Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Gujarat, Haryana, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh etc., are the affected States. The objective of the sub-Mission was to provide safe and potable drinking water to all fluorosis endemic villages by 1990.

A pilot project was set up for all the three worst affected States of Haryana, Andhra Pradesh and Gujarat (in the 37 villages of Amreli), which took several years to complete.

A project to construct pipeline from Kalubhar dam in Bhabnagar district to bring potable water to the affected villages dragged on for as many as eight years after it was first proposed in 1984.

Medical and health experts after in-depth study opined that too much of fluoride results in hardening of blood vessels and there is every possibility that the foetus can be affected and miscarriages and still births and deformed babies are there frequently.

Many of the infants, adults and even older people now cannot see the sky. They are worst affected due to high content of

fluoride in the drinking water. This is a major public health problem and I think that the Government has been rendering no service in this zone. They are committing criminal offences in not providing them safe potable drinking water.

So, I ask the Government to come forward to expedite the Project to provide potable and safe drinking water to avert a major public health hazard in different villages of our country.

12.55 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

Annual Report and Review on the working of the tribal cooperative marketing Development Federation of India Ltd Delhi for 1988-89 etc.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMANGALAM): (On behalf of Shri Sitaram Kesri): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table-

- (1) (a) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India Limited, Delhi, for the year 1988-89 along with Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government on the working of the Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India Limited, Delhi, for the year 1988-89. [Placed in Library See No. LT-1774/92]
- (b) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi

and English versions) of the Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India Limited, Delhi, for the year 1989-90 along with Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government on the working of the Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India Limited, Delhi, for the year 1989-90. [Placed in Library *See* No. LT-1775/92]

- (c) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India Limited, Delhi, for the year 1990-91 along with Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government on the working of the Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India Limited, Delhi, for the year 1990-91.

(2) A statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above. [Placed in Library *See* No. LT-1776/92]

Notification under Central Reserve Police Force Act, 1949

[*Translation*]

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM LAL RAHJ): Sir, On the behalf of Shri M.M. Jacob, I beg to lay on the Table-

A copy of the Indo-Tibetan Border Police, Commandant (Senior Veterinary Surgeon) Recruitment Rules, 1992 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 88 in Gazette of India dated the 29th February, 1992 under sub-section (3)

of section 18 of the Central Reserve Police Force Act, 1949. [Placed in Library *See* No. LT-1777/92]

Annual Report and Annual Accounts of Indian Council of Agricultural Research, New Delhi for 1990-91 etc.

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMANGALAM): On behalf of Shri K.C. Lenka:- I beg to lay on the Table.

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research, New Delhi, for the year 1990-91.

- (ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research, New Delhi, for the year 1990-91 together with Audit Report thereon.

- (2) A statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above [Placed in Library *See* No. LT-1778/92]

- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Dairy Development Board, Anand, for the year 1990-91 along with Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A statement (Hindi and English versions) regarding Review by the Government on the working of the National Dairy Development Board, Anand, for the year 1990-91. [Placed in Library *See* No. LT-1779/92]