

(b) The Associations represent their problems and difficulties to Government from time to time by means of letters and also in their discussions at various levels.

(c) Depending on the types of problems presented by the Associations and the examination which those matters require, replies to the Associations are sent as expeditiously as possible.

(d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Incurable Crippling Disease caused by Florides in Drinking Water

2640. SHRI H. M. PATEL : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING be pleased to state :

(a) whether there have been complaints from certain States that people residing in some areas are suffering from an incurable crippling disease, fluorosis, caused by excessive amount of florides in drinking water ;

(b) if so, the main points of the complaint ;

(c) whether Government have conducted any study in this regard ; and

(d) if so, the result of the study made and the steps taken or proposed to be taken by Government to assist the State Government to fight the disease ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING (SHRI A. K. KISKU) : (a) and (b). No complaints have been received, but it is known that fluoride content of drinking water is in excess in some parts of India and it can result in a disease called fluorosis. Symptoms which can be definitely associated with natural chronic fluorine intoxication of human beings are the typical changes in the teeth and skeletal system. In case of teeth, the enamel is chipped off. The characteristic symptoms of skeletal fluorosis are stiffness of the back and difficulty in performing natural movement such as turning the neck or squatting on the floor. The chest loses its mobility and breathing becomes abdominal. Deformities are often present. The patients complain of a generalised

fleeting pain all over the body and a tingling sensation in the extremities.

(c) The Government have not conducted any study, but the Indian Council of Medical Research and the Central Public Health Engineering Research Unit at Nagpur have conducted studies in Punjab and Andhra Pradesh respectively.

(d) The study undertaken revealed that the incidence of skeletal fluorosis in general increased with the increase in fluoride content of water. But this observation was not universally applicable. The incidence of skeletal fluorosis was greater in poor people doing hard manual labour. It was also more in males and in older age group. It was also observed that when the source of water containing high fluoride was replaced by that of low fluoride content, the condition of the patient with neurological complications showed improvement.

No State Government has approached the Government of India for assistance in fighting the disease.

Implementation of Bonus Act in Sindri Fertilizers

2641. SHRI SAROJ MUKHERJEE :
SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU :

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Bonus Act is implemented in Sindri Fertilizers, Bihar ; and

(b) if not, the steps taken by Government to implement the same ?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI P. C. SETHI) :
(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Implementation of Recommendations of Wage Board for Heavy Chemical and Fertilizers by Sindri Fertilizers

2642. SHRI A. K. SAHA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Sindri Fertilizers has not implemented the recommendations of Wage