

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
RURAL DEVELOPMENT  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:515  
ANSWERED ON:25.11.2005  
CONTROL OF FLUOROSIS  
Ahir Shri Hansraj Gangaram

**Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the Government is aware of excess fluoride in water in tribal areas which has created problem of potable water supply and given birth to fluorosis in these areas;
- (b) if so, whether the Government has identified fluoride affected areas in tribal dominated areas in the country;
- (c) if so, the details thereof, State-wise and district-wise;
- (d) whether the Government has prepared any plan to control fluorosis disease in these areas and ensure supply of potable water; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI A. NARENDRA)

(a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Fluoride affected areas have been identified in the country. Some of these areas are tribal dominated. The details, as reported by the State Governments, are given in the Annexure.

(d) & (e) Rural drinking water supply is a State subject. Government of India supports the State Governments in this endeavour by giving financial and technical assistance under a Centrally Sponsored Programme, namely, Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP). For tackling drinking water quality problems due to chemical contamination, a Sub-Mission programme was introduced in 1992-93 to tackle water quality problems in the affected habitations. 15% of ARWSP funds released to States are earmarked for tackling water quality problems, and 5 % for taking up source sustainability measures like rainwater harvesting and water recharging, which inter-alia reduce contamination of ground water based drinking water sources. Fully covered States can utilize more funds for tackling water quality problems with the approval of Government of India. As per ARWSP Guidelines, the States/UTs are required to earmark and utilize at least 25% of the ARWSP funds for drinking water supply to the Scheduled Castes and another minimum 10% for the Scheduled Tribes. Where the percentage of SC or ST population in a particular State is considerably high warranting earmarking/utilization of more than stipulated provisions, additional funds can be utilised. With effect from 1/4/1998, the powers to sanction projects under Sub-mission programme were delegated to the State Governments. State Governments have been sanctioning projects for tackling fluoride problem which inter-alia includes installation of defluoridation plant at domestic and community level, hand pump attachable defluoridation units, units attached with Ground Level Reservoir (GLR), supply from alternate safe sources – surface or groundwater based.

Drinking water supply is one of the six components of Bharat Nirman, which has been conceived as a plan to be implemented for development of rural infrastructure in four years from 2005-06 to 2008-09. The various activities to be completed under drinking water components of Bharat Nirman include coverage of quality-affected habitations.

Annexure

Statement referred in Parts (a) to (c) of reply to Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No.515 for reply on 25.11.2005

Details of fluoride affected Tribal dominated Districts in India

S. No	Name of the State	Name of the District
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1. Mahbubnagar 2. Adilabad 3. Warrangal 4. Visakhapatnam 5. West Godavari
2	Chattisgarh	1. Dantewada
3.	Gujarat	1. Surat 2. Bharuch 3. Valasad 4. Panchmahal and Dahod 5. Vadodora 6. Sabarkantha

- 7 Banaskantha
8. Narmada
9. Navsari
4. Madhya Pradesh
  1. Betul
    2. Dhar
    3. Jhabua
    4. Balaghat
    5. Mandla
    6. Dindori
    - 7 Seoni
    8. Chhindwara
5. Maharashtra
  1. Thane
    2. Nashik
    3. Nandurbar
    4. Gadchiroli
    5. Amaravati
    6. Pune
    - 7 Jalgaon
    8. Yeotmal
    9. Nagpur
    10. Chandrapur
    11. Nanded
  1. Malkangiri
6. Orissa
  2. Nawarangpur
- 7 Rajasthan
  1. Banswara
    2. Dungarpur
    3. Sirohi
    4. Chittorgarh
    5. Udaipur
8. Jharkhand
  - 15 Habitations