

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:518
ANSWERED ON:13.08.2012
FLUORIDE AFFECTED HANDICAPS
Sarvey Shri Sathyanarayana

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has any proposal to extend financial benefits/pension to the people victims of fluorosis and recognise such people as handicaps;
- (b) if so, the extent of their disability, State-wise including Andhra Pradesh; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor along with the amount spent thereon during the last three years?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI D. NAPOLEON)

(a) to (c) There is no proposal to extend financial benefits/pension exclusively to the victims of fluorosis which as per the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995 is not a disability. However, if fluorosis results in a disability like locomotor disability, the concerned affected person would be eligible for the pension available to persons with disabilities in the concerned State.

There is no data regarding the extent of disability due to fluorosis. However, in order to prevent and control the problem of fluorosis in the country including the State of Andhra Pradesh, the Government has launched National Programme for Prevention and Control of Fluorosis since 2008-09. The objectives of the programme are:

- (i) To collect, assess and use the baseline survey data of fluorosis of Department of Drinking Water Supply for starting the project.
- (ii) Comprehensive management of fluorosis in the selected areas.
- (iii) Capacity building for prevention, diagnosis and management of fluorosis cases.