

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1654
ANSWERED ON:05.03.2015
REPORT ON FLUORIDE IN DRINKING WATER
Reddy Shri Ponguleti Srinivasa

Will the Minister of DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether National Human Rights Commission(NHRC) has asked all the State Governments as well as the Union Government to provide a Report on action taken to eradicate the problem of fluoride/ fluorosis in drinking water and also to reduce the contamination in drinking water and short term & long term measures taken in this regard;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the funds made available during last two financial years to all the fluoride / fluorosis affected areas including Telangana State; State/UT-wise?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR DRINKING WATER & SANITATION (SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV)

(a) & (b): On 20th January 2015, the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has ordered the Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation for making a detailed presentation and discussions on action being taken up to tackle various types of contaminations in rural drinking water sources, including excess fluoride. The Ministry had successfully presented the case and informed the Commission about the short term as well as long term solutions of tackling excess fluoride problems in rural drinking water sources. In its presentation, the Ministry had very clearly informed that as on 01/04/2014, there were 78,506 rural habitations affected with different chemical contaminations in rural drinking water sources, which include excess fluoride in 14,132 habitations in one or more drinking water sources. Since, the long term solution of providing piped water supply from alternate safe drinking water sources may require a long gestation period, the Ministry has suggested all the States to provide safe drinking water through community water purification plants in all remaining arsenic, fluoride, heavy metals, pesticides affected habitations by March 2017 so that at least 8 to 10 liters' per capita per day (lpcd) of safe drinking water for drinking and cooking purposes could be immediately made available for those population who are at risk for such contaminations, including excess fluoride.

(c): Funds made available to fluoride/ fluorosis affected areas are decided at the State level. However, the total funds made available to all the fluoride affected States under the Centrally sponsored National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP) including Telanganaduring the last 2 years is at Annexure.