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Title: Need to ensure fluoride-free drinking water supply in Karnataka.

SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI (GULBARGA): Sir, there are 56,862 habitations in Karnataka and of this, 20,929 are not getting safe drinking water even now. A study was conducted by the Rural Development Engineering Department between 1999 and 2001 which revealed that 37 per cent of the habitations in the State lacked safe drinking water.

According to the information available with the Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Ministry of Karnataka State, 50 of the 175 taluks in the State had 5-30 per cent fluoride in drinking water sources, and 33 per cent of sources in 25 taluks had excess fluoride. It was widespread in Kudligi and Siruguppa taluks of Kolar district and Afzalpur, Aland and Chitapur taluks in Gulbarga district. Besides, fluorosis was found in Pavagada taluk of Tumkur district, Mundargi taluk of Gadag district and Gulbarga taluk in Gulbarga district.

I, therefore, urge upon the Union Government to kindly take necessary action for providing safe drinking water in Karnataka and fully implement the recommendations made in the study conducted by the RDED immediately.