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Title : Need to make available drinking water free flouride and arsenic to the people at large particularly in Andhra Pradesh.

SHRI M. RAJA MOHAN REDDY (NARASARAOPET): The contamination of ground water in India has become a major health hazard in recent years. To bank on ground water has become dangerous because of unscientific disposal methods, municipal waste seeps through solid layers which contaminates ground water with heavy metals.

According to a survey report of Rajiv Gandhi National Drinking Water Mission, Andhra Pradesh has more than 7000 habitants where drinking water is totally contaminated with fluoride. In Rajasthan, more than half of its villages and as many as 15 Indian States have areas where fluoride contamination of water has been threatening the health of the people. In some State like West Bengal, arsenic-contaminated water is being used by villagers for drinking, resulting in deadly diseases.

I would request the Central Government to take up necessary steps on priority basis to make available drinking water uncontaminated by fluoride and arsenic in a time bound strategy programme involving Government agencies, NGO's, International Agencies and affected communities to meet the situation.

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\* Treated as laid on the Table.