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Title : Need to give approval for setting up a national level Centre for fluorosis mitigation at Gandhi Nagar, Gujarat.

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA (SURAT): A special focus is given to 'quality affected' villages/habitations for providing safe drinking water to rural population by Government of India. In Gujarat, 4,341 habitations were found to be affected by excessive fluoride in 2003 survey. In view of the wide ramifications of the problem of fluorosis, Government of Gujarat submitted a proposal for establishing a Fluorosis Mitigation Centre at Gandhinagar/Ahmedabad, which may serve as a national level Fluorosis Mitigation Centre.

In this regard, Government of Gujarat made repeated requests to Government of India through various letters for its approval.

The then Minister of Rural Development, Government of India through his DO letter No. W-11044/9/99TM-II, dated January 30, 2004 informed Government of Gujarat about the in-principle decision taken at Government of India level for establishing the main Fluorosis Mitigation Centre at Gandhinagar, Gujarat and the Government of Gujarat was requested to make available two acres of land for this purpose. Accordingly, two acres of land, plot No. 11, bearing survey Nos. 242, 237 and 270 at Village Koba was allotted for this purpose by the Collector, Gandhinagar *vide* letter No. CB/Land/Vashi/123/05, dated 6.1.2006 and the same has been intimated to the Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India.

In these circumstances, I urge upon the Government to approve the aforementioned proposal for setting up the Fluorosis Mitigation Centre at Gandhinagar, Gujarat without further delay.