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Title: Regarding allocation of adequate funds for the purpose of building Common Treatment Plant and check dam to check the fluoride level in Ayodhiyapattinam block of Tamil Nadu.

DR.K. KAMARAJ (KALLAKURICHI): Respected Deputy Speaker, Sir, drinking water or potable water must be safe enough to be consumed by the human. In many districts of India, water is contaminated with fluoride, arsenic, lead, industrial pollutants, sewage effluents etc. In many districts of our water-deficit State of Tamil Nadu - like Dharmapuri, Krishnagiri and Salem - water is contaminated with fluoride of more than the acceptable level of 1.5 mg/dl. Fluoride is a double-edged weapon, with below 1.5 mg concentration prevents dental caries but on higher concentration of more than 1.5 mg/dl causes dental fluorosis, stiffened and brittle bones and deformities of skeletal system leading to paralysis. Innumerable men and women are suffering with psychological trauma since the fellow humans refuse to marry them due to discoloured teeth and altered physical appearance.

Our hon. leader and people's Chief Minister, *puratchi* thalaivi Amma had executed Hongenakkal Water Supply and Fluoride Mitigation Project to provide safe drinking water to drought prone and fluoride affected Dharmapuri and Krishnagiri districts. At a cost of Rs. 270 crore, our hon. Amma has also brought Combined Water Supply Scheme to supply water to Salem Corporation and many blocks in the Salem district, including Ayodhiyapattinam block in my constituency. But in the Ayodhiyapattinam block, there are 32 fluoride affected panchayats like Aachankuttapatti, Veeranam, Athikaripatti, Anppur, Minnampalli, where fluoride level is ranging from 1.5 to 10 mg/dl, which is not safe for drinking purposes. Water is difficult to get and it is a distant dream to get safe water for people and the household animals.

Hence, I would request the Ministers for Drinking Water and Finance to allocate adequate funds for the purpose of building Common Treatment Plants in each fluoride affected village and schemes for constructing check dams to recharge the ground water to dilute the fluoride levels in aquifer layer of the earth in Ayodhiyapattinam block.

Thank you.