

bsp;Need to provide clean drinking water in fluoride affected regions in the country.

SHRI KESINENI SRINIVAS (VIJAYAWADA): I would like to bring to the notice of the Government the problem relating to high levels of fluoride in the ground water in Vijayawada Parliamentary Constituency.

High amount of fluoride that is greater than 1.5 parts per million (ppm) in drinking water is a serious issue in many parts of India. Fluorosis has been a serious issue in Andhra Pradesh. Evidence indicates that 70-100% parts of the state are afflicted with the problem.

Fluoride is often called a two-edge sword " in small dosages, it has remarkable influence on the dental system by inhibiting dental caries, while in higher dosages causes dental and skeletal fluorosis. When present in concentration of 0.8-1.0 mg/L, fluoride is beneficial for calcification of dental enamel especially for the children below 8 years of age. At higher concentrations (1.5-2.0 mg F/L), fluoride affects adversely and leads to dental fluorosis. At still higher concentration, (3-6 mg *F/L*) skeletal fluorosis occurs. The disease affects the bone and ligaments. Intakes of 20-40mg F/day over long period have resulted in crippling skeletal fluorosis.

Fluoride contaminated ground water is creating health problems in India. Nearly 90 million people including 6 million children in the country in 200 districts in 15 states are affected with dental, skeletal and/or non-skeletal fluorosis.

According to a Central Ground Water Board report, ground water in 20 districts of undivided Andhra Pradesh was found to have concentration of fluoride above 1.5mg per litre.

Doctors assert that 2 mg per litre of fluoride content leads to dental fluorosis. Depending on the length of the exposure, it affects different tissues in the human body affecting teeth, bones, making them brittle and also causing ageing.

People in rural areas generally consume water without any filtration and are adversely affected by dissolved impurities like Fluoride.

In view of the serious health repercussions of fluoride in drinking water, I request the Government to take necessary action to provide clean drinking water to people in excess fluoride affected regions of the country.