

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE**

**LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO.58
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 20TH JULY, 2018
HIGH FLUORIDE CONTENT IN TOOTHPASTE**

***58. SHRI S. RAJENDRAN:
SHRI BIDYUT BARAN MAHATO:**

Will the Minister of **HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the companies manufacturing toothpaste are using high fluoride content in toothpaste and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether high fluoride content in toothpaste is harmful and involves health risks and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Drugs Technical Advisory Board (DTAB) has decided to restrict the use of fluoride content in toothpaste;
- (d) if so, the details thereof along with the time by which such restrictions are likely to be implemented; and
- (e) the other corrective measures taken/being taken by the Government in this regard?

**ANSWER
THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND
FAMILY WELFARE
(SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY)**

(a) to (e) : A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 58* FOR 20TH JULY, 2018**

(a) Manufacture, sale and distribution of cosmetics in the country are regulated under the provisions of Drugs & Cosmetics Act, 1940 and Rules, 1945 thereunder. Licenses to manufacture cosmetics for sale or for distribution are granted by the State Licensing Authorities (SLAs) appointed by respective State Governments. The SLAs are legally empowered to take action against any violation of the conditions of license.

Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO), under the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, has not received any such report that the companies manufacturing toothpaste are using high fluoride content in toothpaste.

(b) High Fluoride content in toothpaste is harmful and involves health risk. Excess of fluoride ingestion can cause dental fluorosis.

(c) & (d) Fluoride content in toothpaste is already restricted under Rule 149A of the Drugs and Cosmetics Rule 1945. As per the said rule, Fluoride content shall not be more than 1000 ppm in toothpaste and the content of fluoride in terms of ppm shall be mentioned on the label and carton.

Drugs Technical Advisory Board (DTAB) deliberated the matter in its 79th meeting held on 16/05/2018 and agreed to recommend amendment to Rule 149A to incorporate the labelling requirements for toothpaste containing fluorides for use of children.

(e) To manage the problem of Fluorosis, a National Programme for Prevention and Control of Fluorosis (NPPCF) has been implemented since 11th Five year plan (2008-09) which has been progressively expanded to cover 148 districts of 19 States.

The important components of the Programme are:-Surveillance of Fluorosis in the community; capacity building (Human Resource) in the form of training and manpower support; establishment of diagnostic facilities in the districts; health education for prevention and control of Fluorosis; management of Fluorosis cases including supplementation with Vitamins and minerals, surgery and rehabilitation.

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