

Title: Need to evolve pilot schemes for constructing check dams for ground water contaminated with fluoride in Tamil Nadu and other parts of the country.

SHRI D. VENUGOPAL (TIRUPPATTUR): Level of water table has receded much below in several drought-hit districts in the country especially the northern districts of Tamil Nadu. In places where water level is far below 300 ft., the water drawn from the bore wells is contaminated with fluoride compounds which could endanger denture and bone system, leading to cancer. The level of water table can rise if check dams are constructed in such areas which are mostly rain irrigated. This will help people to draw water from bore wells and common wells without risking their lives. For instance, in Thakarakuppam Panchayat and Thekkupattu Panchayat that come under Natrampalli Panchayat Union in my Tiruppathur Lok Sabha Constituency, the necessary check dams have not been constructed for want of funds though survey and estimates have been made long back. Places like Vaniambadi and Ambur in the neighbourhood and many places in the neighbouring districts like Thiruvannamalai and Dharmapuri are the hard hit ones. Hence I urge upon the Union Rural Development Ministry to evolve a special scheme to construct check dams in all areas where ground water is contaminated with fluoride compounds posing great threat to public health. I also urge upon the Centre to experiment a pilot scheme for this purpose in my Thiruppathur (Tamil Nadu) Lok Sabha Constituency, immediately.

*Translation of the speech originally delivered in Tamil.