

>

Title: Need to provide safe drinking water to people in Dharmapuri Krishnagiri districts in Tamil Nadu- laid.

SHRI R. THAMARASELVAN (DHARMAPURI): Dharmapuri district has a high concentration of endemic fluoride in drinking water sources and ranks the highest in the State of Tamil Nadu. Around 30 per cent of the water sources in Dharmapuri and adjoining Krishnagiri were found fluoride contaminated when compared with the state average of 6.9 per cent. According to health officials, dental fluorosis occurs mainly due to heavy ingestion of fluoride from the foetal state upto 12 years. When pregnant women drink fluoride infected water, the foetus also gets affected. To address this burning issue, the Government of Tamil Nadu initiated the Hegenakkal Comprehensive Water Supply Scheme which is in its very preliminary stage. In the meanwhile, as an urgent interim arrangement, it is necessary to chalk out an alternative water supply scheme for the district of Dharmapuri which not only lacks in potable water but also its groundwater level had depleted and the existing water level was also contaminated with a high content of fluoride causing various diseases, to address this endemic problem. The supply of protected drinking water to all villages was incorporated in the 10<sup>th</sup> Five year Plan. But in many parts of Dharmapuri and Krishnagiri, people still depend on the groundwater which has high content of fluoride. I, therefore, urge upon the Government to extend a helping hand to the State Government of Tamil Nadu to provide potable water to all the villages in entire Tamil Nadu.