

undertaken to unearth irregularities in the Centrally-sponsored scheme under which a BPL family is provided health insurance of Rs. 30,000 a year.

Among them were Ram Punit Mahato and Ramashray Das from Ujjayarpur block whose insurance money was claimed for the operation at a local private nursing home without their knowledge. The scamsters had also used a minor girl's name (Sudha Kumari) to claim a sum of Rs. 12,000 as insurance for an operation that had never taken place.

Thousands of fake and needless uterus removal surgeries were performed on unsuspecting poor women. A CBI enquiry is necessary into such huge irregularities. The Union Minister for Health is requested to send a team of experts to have its details and also stern action should be taken in this matter.

**Demand to take effective steps to check the spread of fluorosis in
Telangana Region, particularly in Nalgonda District**

SHRI DEVENDER GOUD T. (Andhra Pradesh): Sir, as per the norms of the WHO, human body requires 0.5 to 1.5 ppm (0.5 to 1.5 drops out of ten lakh drops of water) of fluorine. But, in Nalgonda District of Andhra Pradesh, people are consuming fluoride between three and ten ppm. Excess fluoride intake causes fluorosis, paraplegia, arthritis, muscular tenderness, neck rigidity, stiffness of joints and mental retardation. It also affects human intelligence, especially in children who are most susceptible to early fluoride toxicity.

It is not that it has happened today. First fluoride case was reported in 1945 in Nalgonda. But, no preventive measures were taken. By 1980, fluorosis has reached, apart from source of water, to foodgrains produced through groundwater. So, now, even the foodgrains have the fluorosis content. As a result, 850 villages and eight lakh people are affected with fluorosis. It is a great irony that Krishna flows through this district and there is Nagarjunasagar dam in this very district. But, successive Governments failed to allocate drinking water from Nagarjunasagar to the villages of Nalgonda. This has aggravated the problem further.

In view of the above, I urge upon the Government of India to help the State Government in completing Srisailem Left Bank Canal and Eliminati Madhava Reddy Project; water quality monitoring and surveillance has to be improved; recharging of groundwater and regulation of groundwater; integrating different activities relating to water resource management and drinking water by involving Panchayats, NGOs, etc.; setting up of more number of de-fluorination plants; and, extensive promotion of rainwater harvesting. Thank you.

SHRI ANANDA BHASKAR RAPOLU (Andhra Pradesh): Sir, I associate myself with the Special Mention made by Shri Devender T. Goud.