Anti-COVID-19 disinfection tunnels may harm eyes, say alkali makers

By: M Sarita Varma | Published: April 14, 2020 2:45:25 AM

The use of these chemicals on the face is even more harmful with chances of ingress into eyes, nostrils and mouth, according to New Delhi-based AMAI (Alkali Manufacturers Association of India).

“The alkali industry has stepped up efforts to maintain adequate supply of disinfection chemicals during the current challenging times,” said Patel. (Representative image)

Even as disinfection tunnels are mushrooming countrywide as an anti-COVID-19 procedure, leading alkali makers have warned that spraying chemicals such as sodium hypochlorite solution and hydrogen peroxide can be dangerous to human beings. The use of these chemicals on the face is even more harmful with chances of ingress into eyes, nostrils and mouth, according to New Delhi-based AMAI (Alkali Manufacturers Association of India).

Alarmed by the reports of “special chambers being erected that spray a mist of disinfectant chemicals on people passing through them,” the AMAI has started
liaisoning with the governments and civil bodies “for safe usage of these disinfectants”, president Jayantibhai Patel told FE.

The alkali industry is aghast at reports that “chemicals like sodium hypochlorite and hydrogen peroxide are being used for disinfecting human beings”. Disinfectants work on surfaces, not on human bodies, said Patel. “Spraying alcohol or chlorine all over your body will not kill viruses that have already entered your body. Such substances can be harmful to mucous membranes of eyes and mouth,” said Patel, citing the World Health Organisation.

Various versions of disinfectant tunnels are coming up in several public places, including vegetable markets and police stations, in Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Karnataka, Telangana, Kashmir, West Bengal, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, the Delhi-NCR and Punjab. Indian Railways loco shed in Maharashtra’s Bhusaval has also come out with its version of disinfectant tunnel. However, last week, some state governments, including Kerala and Tamil Nadu, had dismissed the use of such disinfectant gateways as unscientific.

According to the AMAI, for disinfecting hands, alcohol-based sanitisers are recommended. Any other part of the body should be cleaned using ordinary soap and water only.

“The alkali industry has stepped up efforts to maintain adequate supply of disinfection chemicals during the current challenging times,” said Patel.

Study stresses the importance of exercising caution while using strong disinfectants

Updated on: Monday, April 13, 2020, 4:47 PM IST

By IANS

There have been recent reports from parts of India where migrant workers were sprayed on disinfectants.

In the wake of chemicals like sodium hypochlorite solution and hydrogen peroxide being used for sanitisation to fight Covid-19, several stakeholders have underlined the need to exercise caution while using disinfecting chemicals directly on human beings.

Sodium hypochlorite is a strong disinfectant to be used in recommended dilution to disinfect surfaces and objects that are contaminated or disinfected. Contact with skin can cause itching and irritation leading to skin problems. Similarly, hydrogen peroxide is a strong bleaching agent and its use should be restricted to objects and surfaces. The use of these chemicals on your face is even more harmful with chances of ingress into eyes, nostrils and mouth, causing health issues.

There have been recent reports from parts of India where migrant workers were sprayed on disinfectants.
All indoor areas such as entrance lobbies, corridors and staircases, escalators, elevators, security guard booths, office rooms, meeting rooms, cafeteria should be mopped with a disinfectant with 1 percent sodium hypochlorite or phenolic disinfectants, says an advisory by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

"There have been recent reports in the media on chemicals like sodium hypochlorite solution and hydrogen peroxide being used for disinfection on human beings. In fact, there are also instances of special chambers being erected that spray a mist of disinfectant chemicals on people passing or walking through them. We are liaising with the government and civic bodies for safe usage of these disinfectants", said Mr Jayantibhai Patel, President AMAI, representative body of the entire alkali industry in India that produces sodium hypochlorite, chlorine, bleaching solution/powder, etc. used for disinfection.

During these challenging times, members of AMAI have stepped up their efforts to maintain adequate supply of disinfection chemicals to supplement the efforts of the government in the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic. However chemicals such as sodium hypochlorite, chlorine, hydrogen peroxide and bleach solutions should be handled with utmost care, avoiding skin contact. In case of contact with skin, the exposed part should be thoroughly washed with a running stream of water, states AMAI.

WHO recommends use of disinfection chemicals such as sodium hypochlorite, chlorine, bleach solution (in recommended dilution) for disinfecting surfaces and objects. To maintain personal hygiene, WHO also recommends frequent washing of hands with soap and water.

https://www.freepressjournal.in/health/study-stresses-the-importance-of-exercising-caution-while-using-strong-disinfectants
Chemical manufacturers’ body caution on use of strong disinfectants

Alkali Manufacturers Association of India has urged people to be cautious while using disinfectants directly on body.

Sodium hypochlorite is a strong disinfectant used in recommended dilution to disinfect surfaces and objects that are contaminated or disinfected. Contact with skin can cause irritation leading to skin problems. Similarly, hydrogen peroxide is a strong bleaching agent and it should be used to disinfect objects and surfaces only.
The use of these chemicals on the face is more harmful with chances of ingress into eyes, nostrils and mouth, causing health issues, said AMAI which represents the alkali industry that produces sodium hypochlorite, chlorine, bleaching solution and powder used for disinfection.

“There have been reports that special chambers being erected that spray a mist of disinfectant on people passing or walking through them. We are liaising with the government and civic bodies for safe usage of these disinfectants,” said Jayantibhai Patel, President, AMAI.

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However chemicals such as sodium hypochlorite, chlorine, hydrogen peroxide and bleach solutions should be handled with care, avoiding skin contact. In case of contact with skin, the exposed part should be thoroughly washed with a running stream of water, said AMAI.

For disinfecting and cleaning hands, alcohol-based sanitisers are recommended. Any other part of the body should be cleaned using ordinary soap and water only, AMAI has recommended.

Strong Disinfectants May Be Harsh On Your Skin

In the wake of chemicals like sodium hypochlorite solution and hydrogen peroxide being used for sanitisation to fight Covid-19, several stakeholders have underlined the need to exercise caution while using disinfecting chemicals directly on human beings.

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All indoor areas such as entrance lobbies, corridors and staircases, escalators, elevators, security guard booths, office rooms, meeting rooms, cafeteria should be mopped with a disinfectant with 1 percent sodium hypochlorite or phenolic disinfectants, says an advisory by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
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WHO recommends use of disinfection chemicals such as sodium hypochlorite, chlorine, bleach solution (in recommended dilution) for disinfecting surfaces and objects. To maintain personal hygiene, WHO also recommends frequent washing of hands with soap and water.

https://www.msn.com/en-sg/health/wellness/strong-disinfectants-may-be-harsh-on-your-skin/ar-BB12xHgU?li=AAGokhs
Strong disinfectants may be harsh on your skin

Sodium Hypochlorite is a strong disinfectant to be used in recommended dilution to disinfect surfaces and objects that are contaminated, it's not to be used on your skin

By Aditi Roy

April 12, 2020 (IANSlife)

In the wake of chemicals like sodium hypochlorite solution and hydrogen peroxide being used for sanitisation to fight Covid-19, several stakeholders have underlined the need to exercise caution while using disinfecting chemicals directly on human beings.

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https://ianslife.in/beauty/strong-disinfectants-may-be-harsh-your-skin
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(Aditi Roy can be contacted at aditi.r@ians.in) --IANS

https://www.outlookindia.com/newsscroll/strong-disinfectants-may-be-harsh-on-your-skin/1799917
No more disinfection tunnels as docs warn of health hazard

Published: Apr 11, 2020, 01:52 AM

The much-hyped disinfection tunnels first set up in Tirupur and soon copied by various district administrations and also the Chennai Corporation are being given a silent burial, after a team of medical experts pointed out that it was not effective against coronavirus, but was instead harmful when sprayed on people.

Chennai:
Sources said the State government instructed all District Collectors on Friday to dismantle them.

Right from the time the first tunnel was installed in Tirupur to spray water mixed with sodium hypochlorite, a chemical used in cleaning solutions, many had questioned its efficacy, pointing out the opinion from the World Health Organisation (WHO) that chlorine was not effective to kill the pathogen on humans. On the other hand, it was potentially more harmful due to the damage it can cause to the mucous membrane and also the skin.

On Friday, during his review meeting with medical experts, Chief Minister Edappadi K Palaniswami was informed that there was no scientific evidence to prove its efficacy. “After the review meeting, a circular was sent to all the District Collectors to immediately dismantle the disinfection tunnels,” an official confirmed.
Many district administrations had set up similar tunnels - including a few in Chennai by the city Corporation - and many more were being planned. “But now, after the side effects of the tunnel were highlighted, the government decided to dismantle them,” another official said.

The chemical, sodium hypochlorite, had gained infamy after the outrage triggered by the Uttar Pradesh government using it to spray on migrant labourers who were returning home from Delhi. Such was the outrage over the UP incident that authorities had called for an investigation after a video went viral. Even the Opposition parties had raised a hue and cry over the incident. Such disinfectant tunnels were first used in China, the epicentre of the COVID-19 outbreak. However, even there, they had proven to be ineffective.

The World Health Organisation has stated that sodium hypochlorite exposure may cause nasal irritation, sore throat and coughing. Exposure to stronger concentration of the chemical can cause serious damages including burning pain, redness, swelling and blisters.

https://www.dtnext.in/News/TamilNadu/2020/04/11015252/1224470/No-more-disinfection-tunnels-as-docs-warn-of-health-vpf
Uttarakhand lockdown: वैज्ञानिक आधार न होने के कारण सेनिटाइजिंग टनल बंद करने के आदेश

कोरोना संक्रमण के मद्देनजर राज्य में जगह-जगह लगाई गयी सेनिटाइजिंग टनल बंद करने होंगे। इस तरह के टनल का कोई वैज्ञानिक आधार नहीं है।

हल्द्वानी, जेएनएन: कोरोना संक्रमण के मद्देनजर राज्य में जगह-जगह लगाई गयी सेनिटाइजिंग टनल बंद करने होंगे। चिकित्सा स्वास्थ्य के अपर सचिव युगल किशोर पंत ने सभी डीएम-सीएमओ को पत्र जारी कर कहा है कि इस तरह के टनल का कोई वैज्ञानिक आधार नहीं है। ऐसे में इनका उपयोग बंद कराया जाए। बता दे कि हल्द्वानी नवीन मंडी परिसर में भी कुछ दिन पहले सेनिटाइजिंग टनल लगाई गई है।
अपर सचिव चिकित्सा स्वास्थ्य युगल किशोर पंत द्वारा जारी पत्र में कहा गया है कि कोरोनावायरस के संक्रमण के दौरान प्रदेश में मंडी समेत कई जगह पर सेनीटाइजर टनल लगाए जाने की सूचना मिली है। जिस पर विश्व स्वास्थ्य संगठन ने एडवाइजरी जारी की है। कोरोना को रोकने के लिए सेनीटाइजर टनल सहित अन्य गतिविधियां किसी भी प्रकार से वैज्ञानिक आधारित नहीं है। भारत सरकार के गाइडलाइन के अनुसार भी नहीं है। तिहाजा इस तरह के सेनीटाइजेशन टनल न लगाए जाए। जो इस्तेमाल भी हो रहे हैं उनको तत्काल प्रभाव से बंद किया जाए। गौरतलब है कि कुमाऊँ की सबसे बड़ी सब्जी मंडी हल्द्वानी और शहर के कई इलाकों में इस तरह के सेनीटाइजेशन टनल बनाए जा रहे हैं। तिहाजा अब सरकार की तरफ से निर्देश मिलने के बाद इन सभी को बंद करना होगा।