Title: Need to check ground water exploitation by multinational companies in Plachimada and Pudussery Panchayat areas of Kerala.

SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR (CALICUT): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to bring to the notice of the House that time has now come to place restrictions on MNCs which use ground water as their sole raw material in large quantities to make aerated, mineral and sweetened bottled waters by extracting ground water for commercial use. These MNCs who sell water are making huge profits are equated with the common man who demands drinking water.

The individuals and the huge corporates are treated on the same level which is unjust.

In this regard, I bring to the notice of the Government the serious and alarming situation developing in Plachimada in the panchayat of Perumatti, Palghat District, Kerala, where because of the over exploitation of ground water by Coca Cola Company, there is acute shortage of drinking water. The adjoining area where the company is situated, the land is polluted and water is contaminated. The entire agricultural operations are at standstill. The struggle of the local people especially the adivasis have completed three years. The Perumatti panchayat has gone on appeal to the Supreme Court on the decision of the Division Bench of the Kerala High Court. I would request the Government to support and help the Perumatti panchayat which is fighting to establish for their constitutional rights. How can a small Panchayat fight a mighty multinational company.

I also urge the Government to direct the Ground Water Authority to conduct a study in Plachimada and also the adjoining Pudussery Panchayat where Pepsi is exploiting ground water so that safeguards can be taken to avoid the impending crisis. I also want the Government to reprioritise the allocation of water in order to protect the interest of the rural poor. It is equally important to have policy decisions and proper implementation of the same with regard to ground water exploitation.

MR. SPEAKER: It is a very important issue.