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Title: Need to close down South India Bottling company in Tenkasi Parliamentary Constituency, Tamil Nadu which is depriving availability of potable water to the people of the Constituency.

SHRI M. APPADURAI (TENKASI): In my Tenkasi Parliamentary constituency, a USA based Multi National Company has set up their factory, namely, South India Bottling company in SIPCOT Complex, Gangaikondan, Tirunelveli District of Tamilnadu. This SIPCOT Complex is getting 45 lakh liters of water from Thamirabarani river, Tirunelveli for industrial purposes. This South India Bottling company which is getting 5 lakh litres of water daily @ Rs. 15 for 1000 lt. From SIPCOT Complex sells the same after processing as mineral water and a soft drink @ Rs. 12 per lr. In addition to that, it fetches 6 lakh liters of water daily from deep bore due to which the ground water level and availability of water has been decreasing day by day. Nearer to this ground water pumping station, a Comprehensive Drinking Water Scheme is in operation to supply drinking water to Tuticorin District, Kovilpatti Municipality and nearby areas. Once more comprehensive drinking water scheme is also in operation supplying drinking water to Sattur, Virudunagar, and Sivakasi. As the people of Kovilpatti municipality, Tuticorin, Sivaganagi districts and nearby areas are already facing acute water shortage, people are agitated at the huge amount of ground water used by the company for commercial purposes depleting ground water table.

Hence, I urge upon the govt. to take necessary steps to save drinking water potential in the already drought prone area such as stopping water supply from the SIPCOT complex to the company and preventing the company from fetching ground water depriving common people of precious potable water. Further, the government may even close down this MNC unit.