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Title: Regarding Delhi Jal Board's reported decision for privatising the water of river Ganga.

SHRI PRAKASH YASHWANT AMBEDKAR (AKOLA): Sir, I would like to raise a very sensitive issue that the Government has started the process of privatisation of the holy *Ganga* River.

Under the World Bank system of public private management, the Ganges has been privatised and given to a French firm by the name, Suez-Degremont Private Limited. The Government has gone into an agreement and the work has already started. This company has gone into an agreement with the Delhi Jal Board. From Tehri Dam, the Upper Ganga canal flows nearly about 304 kilometres covering about 21 districts of Uttar Pradesh. This water discharge of 635 million cubic per day is now going to be used to supply water to Delhi. In the 21 districts, which are coming in this area, 19 lakh hectares are being irrigated. They are going to be deprived of this water. The Delhi Government has invested on its own two million dollars. This company is only going to supply the technology of purification of water. The management of the water is going to be the responsibility of the Delhi Government. Further, the charges, which are going to be levied by this private firm for purification of water, are going to be round about Rs.2 a litre which I personally did not believe, but after going through the agreement which has been entered into by the Government, it is found true that the charges, which this company is going to charge, are Rs.2 per litre. This is the first phase of the agreement.

The next phase of the agreement is going to start in all the cities situated on the banks of the River Ganga. They will be forced to take water from this company. River and water are the properties of the nation. Without investing a single paise into the whole project, this company is going to make a profit of Rs.20,000 crore, only by supplying water to Delhi....(*Interruptions*) Let me complete. This is an important issue.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I know it.

SHRI PRAKASH YASHWANT AMBEDKAR : Not only this is being privatised but also let me tell you that the Government of Tamil Nadu has gone ahead and privatised one more River, Bhavani, a tributary of the Cauvery. If water is going to be privatised, what is going to be the condition of the common man? Can the common man afford this? I would like the House to join me in asking the Government whether they are going to proceed with this agreement or the agreement is going to be cancelled.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Prakash Yashwant Ambedkar, during 'Zero Hour', you will have to complete it in one minute. Do not make a speech.

SHRI PRAKASH YASHWANT AMBEDKAR : I will just conclude by saying that all the leaders should join me in getting the contract cancelled by the Government. The Government should reply whether this is a fact or not.