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Title: Need to restrict extraction of water by bottled water industry in the country.

SHRI B. MAHTAB (CUTTACK): Sir, as the mercury is rising day by day and drinking water is becoming scarce, an attempt is being made to sell bottled drinking water in plastic bottles and pouches without maintaining the quality of the water. Attempt should be made to provide water to all instead of propagating bottled water for all.

Today, bottled water is being banned in the so-called world class cities. Recent reports have stated that in the United States, San Francisco has banned it; Chicago has started taxing it; and Seattle is taking action against bottled water.

I would like to know from the Government whether the Government is proposing to bottle up all water for assured equitable distribution and access for all. Just to underline the phenomenon of a flourishing bottled water industry, the slogan now seems to be that we are quite developed. Therefore, instead of water for all, should we ask for bottled water for all? When we demand water for all, it is the public water we are calling for. Bottled water is not about conserving water system. Neither all bottled water is clean and save.

I would urge upon the Government to ensure clean and safe drinking water. Attempts should be also to discourage the use of plastic which adds up to the cloaking of landfill and has tremendous impact on our environment. Therefore, only certified and clean drinking water be marketed and strict action be taken against those who are marketing spurious bottled water. At the same time, the Government should restrict massive extraction of water by the bottled water industry that is disturbing the aqua file, which is impossible to restore.[\[m21\]](#)