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Title: Need for Central intervention to resolve the dispute regarding Hogenakkal Water Scheme between Tamil Nadu and Karnataka.

DR. R. SENTHIL (DHARMAPURI): Sir, Dharmapuri and Krishnagiri districts of Tamil Nadu are essentially very dry districts. The water is scarce and there is a perennial drinking water scarcity. Even the available drinking water is having very high content of fluoride. Hence, the Central Government was contemplating on a permanent drinking water scheme based on the Cauvery River water. The hon. Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Dr. Kalaingar has recently announced the Hogenakkal Water Scheme based on the Cauvery River water. Many political parties in Karnataka had objected to this.

Last week one hon. Member from the BJP recorded his objection in Parliament. Those Members have three points for the objection. The first point they made was that any drawing of water from the Cauvery River is against the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal's verdict. The second point they made was that any construction of a dam across the Cauvery is against the agreement made; it should be informed to the Centre and the other neighbouring State. The third point they made was that the present civil structure is going to be in the Karnataka border. All the three objections do not hold water. The Cauvery Tribunal's verdict does not cover drawing of water for drinking purposes. It covers only drawing of water for irrigation purposes. The second point that Tamil Nadu is constructing a dam is again not true. Tamil Nadu is not constructing any dam across the Cauvery. What we are going to do is to just dig some wells for drawing water. The third point is also not true because we are not doing any construction within Karnataka border. Most importantly, politician after politician from Karnataka are visiting Hogenakkal. This is not fair. My only request is this. It is a very sensitive matter. People living on either side of the border feel insecure. So, I request them to be very sensitive and apply their mind to this. Drinking water is a human right. I would, therefore, request them not to raise the matter.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri E.G Sugavanam and Shri A.V. Bellarmin are associated on this issue.