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Title: Need to accord Presidential assent to Plachimada Tribunal Bill passed by Kerala Legislative Assembly in 2011.

SHRI M.B. RAJESH (PALAKKAD): Sir, I seek your permission to speak from here. This is an extremely important issue. A Bill was unanimously passed by the Kerala Assembly in 2011. Irrespective of political affiliations, all Members supported this Bill and this was passed unanimously. This Bill seeks to extract compensation from Coca Cola Company, for the people of Palachimada village in my district Palakkat. This Bill seeks to provide compensation to the people because this entire village was devastated by excessive exploitation of water by Coca Cola Company. The entire area was ruined; 600 acres of agricultural land was made barren. The entire area is now facing severe shortage of drinking water.

The State Government appointed an expert Committee and that Committee found that there was a loss of Rs.216 crore which has to be extracted from Coca Cola. For this purpose the Government moved the Bill and the Assembly unanimously passed a Bill to form a tribunal to extract this compensation....(*Interruptions*)

Unfortunately, despite the Bill was passed in 2011 and sent to the Union Home Ministry, for the last three years the Union Home Ministry has not submitted this Bill to the President for his assent. This is an important thing. I wonder why the Home Ministry is holding back this Bill. Why this has not been submitted for Presidential assent? I suspect big corruption behind this and would say that in order to assist Coca Cola Company this Bill is not being submitted for Presidential assent.