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Title: Need to accord approval to the bill passed by Kerala Assembly for setting up of a tribunal for providing compensation for excessive ground water exploitation.

SHRI M.B. RAJESH (PALAKKAD): Madam, I would like to draw the attention of this august House and the Government to a Bill which was unanimously passed by the Kerala Assembly in 2011. The Bill seeks to get compensation for the people affected due to excessive ground water exploitation by Coca Cola. The Government had appointed a high level expert committee and that committee estimated the damages to the tune of Rs.216 crore. On the basis of that expert committee recommendation, the Bill was passed unanimously by the Assembly. The Bill was sent to the Union Government for the Presidential assent. But the Bill is still pending with the Union Home Ministry for more than three years. The Union Government has failed to give any proper explanation for this extraordinary delay. It is suspected that somebody within the Government is trying to help Coca Cola by withholding the Bill and by not clearing the Bill for the Presidential assent.

I urge upon the Government to immediately send the Bill for Presidential assent so that the Bill passed by the Kerala Assembly is not sabotaged.

HON. SPEAKER: Shri N.K.Premachandran may be allowed to associate with the matter raised by Shri M.B.Rajesh.

श्री सतीश कुमार गौतम - उपस्थित नहीं।

श्री अर्जुन राम मेघवाल - उपस्थित नहीं।