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Title:

***SHRI K SHANMUGA SUNDARAM (POLLACHI)** :In my Pollachi parliamentary constituency and also in the 13 districts of Tamil Nadu such as Coimbatore, Tiruppur, Erode, Namakkal, Salem, Dharmapuri, Krishnagiri, Vellore, Thiruvannamalai, Villupuram, Tiruchy, Karur and Dindugul, Tamil Nadu generation and Distribution Corporation and Power Grid Corporation of Union Government have been implementing projects for setting up of 14 High voltage transmission towers over farm land. The farmers and farmers' unions affected due to the installation of such high voltage towers have set up a Federation of Farmers' Organisations and are spearheading a non-co-operation movement in the footsteps of the father of our nation Mahatma Gandhi. Their primary demand is that the high voltage lines should be set up by way of underground cabling along the roads instead of setting up high voltage transmission towers over farm lands. If the underground cabling work has been made possible in the areas around Chennai, several towns and cities of Tamil Nadu, Kerala, from Madurai to Sri Lanka, Cochin and from Porbandar to African country Djibouti, it is gross injustice to set up high voltage transmission lines along the farm lands of the State of Tamil Nadu thereby affecting the livelihood of our farmers. After all the demands have been rejected, the Federation of Farmers Organisation had put forth another demand of providing monthly rent as regards the areas occupied by such transmission towers as per the rules of Union Government which came into force from 2006. But that demand was also rejected. While replying to the Calling Attention Motion moved by

the Leader of Opposition and the DMK leader in the Tamil Nadu State Assembly on 4 January 2019 about the issue of high voltage transmission towers, Hon'ble Minister for Power Shri Thangamani had assured that each of the affected farmers will be provided Rs. 4 Crore per 1 km of occupied area. But that is not implemented as well so far. It is gross injustice to the farmers. In the States like Telangana and Uttar Pradesh a compensation of Rs. 4 lakh to Rs. 6 lakh has been provided for the land space occupied by the tower base and Rs. 2 lakh to Rs. 4 lakh for an acre area covered by passing power transmission line. In Maharashtra, the compensation amount provided is Rs. 7.5 lakh to Rs. 9 lakhs for land space occupied by tower base and Rs. 3 to Rs. 4 lakh for an area of one acre covered by passing power transmission line. These are the States where land value is less as compared to Tamil Nadu. In such a scenario, the demand for providing a compensation of at least Rs. 20 lakh for the land occupied by tower base and Rs. 10 lakh for an area of one acre covered by the passing power transmission line is still pending. This demand should be fulfilled. On 30.10.2019 as per G.O. No 86 of Tamil Nadu Government, an amount of at least Rs. 50,000/- is fixed as compensation for the land occupied by high voltage tower by the State Government of Tamil Nadu. This amount should be increased an at least Rs. 20 lakh should be provided for the land occupied by tower base and Rs. 10 lakh for an area of one acre covered by the passing power transmission line. But crop compensation was also not fixed. It should also be fixed. I therefore request the Union Government to ensure that the farmers get their due land and crop compensation for the areas occupied by high voltage transmission lines and the 46 false cases filed against the agitating farmers and the federation of farmers by the State Government during the last 3 years should be withdrawn besides

protecting the livelihood of the farmers of 13 districts of Tamil Nadu.

Thank you.