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Title: Regarding Use of 'Utility Corridors' in laying of Gas/Oil Pipelines

**SHRI A. GANESHAMURTHI (ERODE):** At present, the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, is implementing Irugur Devanagunthi pipeline project (IDPL) of BPCL and Cochin Kootanad pipeline project of GAIL which are in implementation stage in 07 districts of Tamil Nadu. The pipelines of the said projects are intended to be laid underground in the agricultural lands. Due to this, the livelihood of the farmers and agricultural lands are severely affected. The farmers are facing a lot of problems like fragmentation of agricultural lands, restriction of cultivation, diminution/fall of land value, rejection of loan against property by banks and others and problems in family property partition/fragmentation etc.

GAIL's gas pipeline has not yet been implemented for more than 10 years due to farmers struggles. There are many precedents wherein oil/gas pipelines were laid along the roads and highways. Recently, oil pipeline for a distance of nearly 80 KM from Krishnagiri – Dharmapuri in Tamilnadu was laid along the Highways without causing any damages to the agricultural lands.

Hence, I request the hon. Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas to take necessary action to develop and create "Utility Corridors" along the roads and highways and to implement the BPCL's IDPL and Cochin-Kootanad pipeline using "Utility Corridors" along the roads and highways. Further, in future, to implement Gas/oil pipelines by using "Utility Corridors" along the roads and highways shall be treated as "Policy decision" by the Union Government.

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:**

Shri K. Raghu Rama Krishna Raju -- Not present

Smt. Apurupa Poddar -- Not present