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Title: Need for laying underground cables instead of erecting overhead high voltage power lines by Power Grid Corporation Ltd. in Tamil Nadu.

SHRI K. SUBBARAYAN (TIRUPPUR): The Power Grid Corporation of India Limited and the Tamil Nadu Transmission Corporation Limited have undertaken the work of erecting Overhead High Voltage Power lines over the farm lands in Tamil Nadu. Farm lands in 7 districts of Tamil Nadu are included in this project. These towers are erected to facilitate transmission of high tension electricity. This project involves bringing electricity from Raigarh in Chhattisgarh to Pugalur in Tiruppur district and from there to Thrissur in Kerala. The farm land provides livelihood to the farmers. Erection of High voltage Power lines on the farm land will render the land untenable for the purpose of any farming activity. It will also devalue the cost of land. The farmers of 7 districts of Tamil Nadu are up in arms against this project ever since it started in the year 2015. Plenty of petitions have been submitted but no official has so far scrutinized any petition. Instead of looking into their complaints, they are being harassed, intimidated, threatened and thrashed by the officials with the help of police. The Power Grid Corporation. of India Limited should assess the feasibility of laying underground cabling for transmission of power. Underground cabling plays crucial role in power transmission with resilience in severe weather conditions. Though the underground cabling is expensive, nothing can be more expensive than the cost of lives of the people. After all, the development should aim at improving the standard of living of the people and it cannot be at the cost of their lives and sustenance.

Therefore, I urge upon the Government to immediately direct the Power Grid Corporation and the Tamil Nadu Government to stop forthwith the activity of erecting overhead High Voltage Power Lines in Tamil Nadu and try for underground laying of cables.

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