

Title: Need to issue instructions to ONGC to give a part of the royalty to the local administration for enabling proper maintenance of the Highways used by the company in Nagapattinam Parliamentary Constituency, Tamil Nadu.

SHRIA.K.S. VIJAYAN (NAGAPATTINAM): Oil exploration activities are being carried out by ONGC in my Nagapattinam constituency. There are nearly 52 oil wells in operation. The ONGC is transporting oil using tankers. Round the year the State highways are utilized by these transporters. Due to this, the Highways in my constituency, particularly Nadurkalappal-athicapuram road and Nagoor-Sannanallur road have been badly damaged. If we take up this matter to the State highways department/local bodies to repair the damaged road, they are simply saying that this is the responsibility of the ONGC and vice versa. Moreover, this company is paying royalty to the State Government direct and not to the District Collector or local bodies. Further, they are also not giving any employment to the local people who are a deprived class due to poverty and unemployment. Event though ONGC is the biggest and leading profit making public sector organisation in India, its unit located in my Constituency have not contributed to the progress and development of the area and has neither improved the infrastructure nor provided employment.

Hence, I urge upon the Union Government to issue instructions to the ONGC to give part of the royalty to the concerned District Collector directly and to ensure employment opportunities to both skilled and unskilled workers. They may help the local administration to ensure proper maintenance of highways used by ONGC in our area.