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Title: Need to accord permission for laying of pipe line for drinking water across N.H. No. 7 along the service road near Karuppur in Salem district, Tamil Nadu.

SHRI S. SEMMALAI (SALEM): Thank you, Mr. Chairman, Sir, for giving me this opportunity. The subject matter relate to the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI). Salem city in Tamil Nadu, which has the population of 8.5 lakhs, is facing severe drinking water problem. The Tamil Nadu Government under the leadership of hon. *Puratchi Thalaivi Amma* is now implementing a special drinking water scheme to provide safe and clean drinking water to the people of Salem city. The work of laying pipeline is in progress. Nearly 90 per cent work has been completed. The remaining work is pending because of the delay in giving permission by the NHAI. Salem Municipal Corporation has sent a proposal to the NHAI seeking its permission for laying pipeline across the NH-7 at one point near Karuppur, along the Service Road for a short distance. Local officers of the NHAI, the Project Director at Salem, Chief General Manager at Chennai have also recommended. Salem Municipal Corporation was asked to deposit an amount of Rs.5.5 crore, which the Corporation has agreed to remit the amount but the permission is yet to be accorded.

As the Member of the Parliamentary Constituency, I represented the matter several times. Considering the importance and urgency, the hon. Minister of Road Transport and Highways may be pleased to expedite the matter and direct the NHAI to grant permission for laying the pipeline as early as possible.