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Title : Need to cancel the proposed coal-bed methane gas exploration in Mannargudi area of Cauvery delta region in Tamil Nadu keeping in view its serious ill-effects on the ecology of the region.

SHRI A.K.S. VIJAYAN (NAGAPATTINAM): I would like to draw the kind attention of the Hon'ble Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas towards the ill-effects of proposed coal-bed methane gas exploration in Mannargudi area of Cauvery delta region in Tamil Nadu which would threaten the environment, water resources and food security.

The Cauvery delta is a food-producing area and there is vast difference in extracting coal bed methane in Mannargudi and other places. Mannargudi is a lignite zone and a fertile land. The Cauvery delta is already vulnerable and production of coal bed methane would damage it further environmentally, economically and socially. Due to this methane exploration, the land and water in the region would be damaged. It would also affect the food production and livelihood of farmers and farm labourers too. The farmers in this area have recently held mass demonstrations against the proposed methane gas exploration and lodged their protests. This is one of the most important issues of farmers and needs immediate attention of the Union Government.

I urge upon the Union Government to stop this proposed coal-bed methane gas exploration in Mannargudi area of Cauvery delta region in Tamil Nadu immediately and save the lives of poor farmers from such methane gas exploration.