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Title: Need to give an early environmental clearance for laying of new crude oil pipeline between Chennai Port and Chennai Petroleum Corporation Limited Refinery.

DR. P. VENUGOPAL (TIRUVALLUR): The Public Sector Refinery CPCL at Chennai is using a 42 year old pipe line to transport crude oil from Chennai Port passing through thickly populated areas of North Chennai. The continued use of this line is risky for the population. The new pipeline proposed by the refinery, will be routed along the Expressway between Chennai Port and Ennore Port being laid by NHAI. The road work has started, but the Ministry of Environment and Forests has not cleared the pipeline project inspite of the fact that State Coastal Regulation Zone Authority has cleared the proposal. The committee looking into the complaints on the laying of pipeline have upheld that those complaints are not valid. The newspaper reports reveals that the clearance for pipeline project has been closed by Ministry of Environment and Forests. The replacement of existing line is critical as the old line will pose risks to the population and will also affect the supply of crude to the refinery which is catering to the needs of entire Tamil Nadu. Urgent action is required by Ministry of Environment and Forests to clear the proposal for the new pipeline which was recommended by the Parliamentary Committee on Industry.