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Title: Need to accord permission for laying pipelines to supply water along NH 67 for Palladam in Coimbatore and Tirupur districts of Tamil Nadu.

SHRI P. NAGARAJAN (COIMBATORE): Thank you, Chairman, Sir. With the blessings of our hon. Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, *Puratchi Thalaivi Amma*, I rise to speak on the very important issue of my Constituency, namely, Coimbatore.

There is a proposal to replace the old existing leaky AC pipes with new higher dimension MS pipes along one side of NH-67 from Irugur Pirivu to Pongalur *via* Palladam stretching over 30.36 kms. for Palladam CWSS under the Rajiv Gandhi National Drinking Water Mission. This project was launched by the Union Government.

The Ministry of Surface Transport has already granted permission in the year 2011 to replace the old pipelines, but NHAI is still not giving permission to replace the water pipelines. I do not know why they are not giving its permission or what is the reason behind it. The infrastructural works like feeder main pumps and overhead tanks -- at a cost of Rs. 30 crore -- have already been completed. Nearly, 1.2. million people are totally dependent upon this drinking water project, but they are now facing a lot of problem without adequate water supply. This project was launched by the Union Government to ensure maximum inflow of scientific and technical inputs into the rural water supply sector, to improve the performance and cost effectiveness of the on-going programmes, and to ensure adequate supply of safe drinking water.

Hence, I urge the Union Government to give suitable instructions to NHAI to give its permission to replace the existing faulty pipelines at the earliest. Thank you.