

an>

Title: Regarding Gail project of Tamil Nadu.

SHRI S.R. VIJAYA KUMAR (CHENNAI CENTRAL): Madam, GAIL has planned Kochi-Kootanad-Bengaluru-Mangalore Pipeline project aimed at connecting the Southern States to the national grid. In Tamil Nadu, the project passes through 310 kilometres covering seven districts of Tamil Nadu including Tirupur, Erode, Coimbatore, Namakkal, Salem, Dharmapuri and Krishnagiri. Though the project has national importance, it will affect the livelihood of several lakhs of farmers in these seven districts of Tamil Nadu.

Further, the project will also lead to the uprooting of 1.20 lakh fruit-bearing trees and lakhs of mango, jackfruit and coconut trees. Besides this, lives of thousands of people living in these districts will also be put to risk if the pipeline is laid.

In this regard, Puratchi Thalaivi Amma and the hon. Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu had taken up the matter with the Union Government urging the Union Government to make necessary changes to realign the Kochi-Bengaluru pipeline without affecting the farm lands around the seven western districts of Tamil Nadu. However, no response has been received from the Union Government in this regard.

Considering the seriousness of the matter, I urge upon the hon. Minister to intervene in the matter and find an amicable solution to the matter at the earliest.