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Title: Need to provide compensation to farmers affected by construction of high-power transmission towers in Tamil Nadu-laid

SHRI A. GANESHAMURTHI (ERODE): In Tamil Nadu, the Power Grid Corporation of India and Tamil Nadu Transmission Corporation Limited (TANTRANSCO) are executing more than 13 power projects involving high power transmission towers. More than 40,000 farmers are directly affected due to the implementation of these projects, and more than this number are being affected indirectly. As agricultural activities are not providing profits anymore, the monetary value of the land is the only source of livelihood of farmers. Due to these schemes relating to high power transmission grids and the installation of towers on farm lands, the value of land has drastically gone down. Moreover, trees, crops, wells, bore wells, houses and other structures found on the land are also very much affected. In the year 2015, Ministry of Power had devised guidelines for providing compensation to the persons affected due to the implementation of high-power grid projects. These guidelines are not on the basis of any law and are also against the fair and justified means of providing compensation to the victims. The new Land Acquisition Act legislated by the Union Government in the year 2013 exempted 13 enactments listed in the Fourth Schedule of the Act regarding rights relating to acquisition and use of land. But the Union Government in its report issued in the year 2015 affirmed that the 13 enactments regulating the land

acquisition, rehabilitation and settlement will be applicable to the Land Acquisition Act. This includes the Electricity Act of 2003 and the PMP Act 1963 which are related to acquisition and use of land. Power transmission companies are denying rightful compensation to the victims as per law stating that the Land Acquisition Act of 2013 is only applicable to land acquisition and not for rights relating to use of land. Keeping in view of the affected farmers. I, therefore, urge upon the Government to help the victims affected by high power transmission towers in getting compensation and to order for carrying out the rehabilitation and resettlement work, that is due to these victims, as per the new Land Acquisition Act of 2013.