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Title: Regarding socio-environmental impact caused by Power Transmission Projects -laid.

**SHRI A. GANESHAMURTHI (ERODE):** The Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF) uses Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Notification 2006 as a major tool for minimizing the adverse impact of rapid industrialization on environment. The Power Transmission Projects, presently in our country, use High-Tension Towers. The Electro-Magnetic Effects caused by those High-Tension Transmission Lines along the Right of Way Corridor & the lands beneath the Transmission Lines, cause various Long-Term & Short-Term Health Hazards among Human beings and also to the Plants & Animals. These effects were substantiated by the Studies conducted by World Health Organization (WHO) & various other researchers. A Tubelight held in bare hands, beneath the Transmission Lines, would lighten & brighten up, even without any Physical Electricity Connection. This demonstrates the (EMF) effects of the Transmission Lines easily.

The Agricultural Workers were never made aware of their exposure to EMF of the Transmission Lines. No Studies were conducted by any of the Transmission Companies in India, assessing the Environmental Social Impacts of the Transmission Lines. It is agreed that Transmission of Electricity is important to our country, but at the same time, the welfare of the citizens & farmers should also be considered. So creating awareness among the affected land owners/farmers of the Transmission Projects, about the EMF, other impacts & effects of the Projects, is

essential and those affected land owners/farmers be consulted even before the commencement of such Transmission Projects.

The EIA Notification provides for “Public Consultation”, which refers to the process by which the concerns of affected persons and others who have plausible stake in the environmental impacts of the projects are taken into consideration. Even though many Projects were not included in the Schedule of the above EIA Notification 2006, but later on included in the subsequent Notifications by the Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF). These inclusions were done considering the Impacts of the Projects.

Likewise, why cannot the Power Transmission Projects be brought under the purview of EIA Notification under Category “A” of the Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF) considering the Socio-Environmental Impacts caused by the Power Transmission Projects to the Humans, Flora & Fauna.

I urge upon the Government of India to solve this problem by laying the underground cable lines instead of High Power tension Tower line.