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Title : Regarding allocation of natural gas to Southern states for power generation.

DR. M. THAMBIDURAI (KARUR): Madam Speaker, I thank you for having allowed me to raise this very important matter of urgent public importance regarding "allocation of natural gas" to Southern States, especially to Tamil Nadu...(*Interruptions*) Madam, Tamil Nadu does not have adequate coal to produce thermal power. Tamil Nadu does not have adequate water for drinking and irrigation purposes. So, there is no question of producing hydel power. Hence, we are totally dependent on gas; and gas is the only alternative source of energy...(*Interruptions*)

A few days back, (on the 3rd of August) the hon. Union Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas, Shri Murli Deora made a statement in the Lok Sabha regarding "allocation of gas supply" and said that the Government will do everything possible to protect the interests of the Government and the public.

I would like to remind the House that in 2007, the Reliance Industries secured a clearance from the Government of India, for the production and supply of gas of about 80 metric cubic metre per day from the KG Basin. Accordingly, the Reliance Industries were supposed to lay main gas pipeline from Kakinada to Chennai, and other pipelines from (i) Chennai to Tuticorin, (ii) Chennai to Bangaluru and (iii) Chennai to Cochin.

But I am sorry to say that they have not even dug a single kilometre for laying the pipelines in these places; and deliberately, they are taking gas from Kakinada to Gujarat. They are concentrating only on Mumbai, Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh and other Northern states. The gas from Bombay High is already taken to Uttar Pradesh and Bihar...(*Interruptions*)

*Not recorded.

अध्यक्ष महोदया : आप समाप्त करिए।

â€(व्यवधान)

DR. M. THAMBIDURAI : In the federal set up of our country, all the states have to be accorded equal rights, but here is a situation where the Southern States are suffering at the cost of other States. Southern States, especially Tamil Nadu, are being ignored and neglected continuously by the Government of India...(*Interruptions*)

When all this injustice is being done, the DMK Party, being a part of the coalition Government is keeping quiet. It gives an impression that it is only interested in remaining in power and it is not bothered about bringing gas to Tamil Nadu...(*Interruptions*)

Hence, I request the Union Government to kindly pay serious attention to this problem and see that pipelines are laid and gas is taken to Southern States in right earnest so that Tamil Nadu also benefits from this...(*Interruptions*)

I also urge the Government of India to expedite the exploration of natural gas from the Cauvery Basin; and plead with the Government to take urgent steps to supply natural gas to Tamil Nadu at an early date....(*Interruptions*)