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Title: Issue pertaining to the Petroleum, Chemicals Petrochemicals Investment Region projects in Dakshina Kannada district of Karnataka State.

\*SHRI NALIN KUMAR KATEEL (DAKSHINA KANNADA) : Hon. Speaker, Madam, Thank you very much for giving me the opportunity to raise an importance issue pertaining to the Petroleum, Chemicals Petrochemicals Investment Region (PCPIR) in Dakshina Kannada district of Karnataka state.

The previous union government had introduced the PCPIR projects in five states in the country. Dakshina Kannada district of Karnataka state is also one among them. As per some media reports this project would spread over about 300 sq. kms. of area in Dakshina Kannada district. Farmers in my district have lost so many acres of their agricultural land for projects like MSEZ, MRPL and others. Now our people, particularly farmers have been demonstrating against the PCPIR project for the last 2 to 3 years.

Another point I would like to make is that as per some estimation the PCPIR project would require about 640 million litres of water per day. I am of the opinion that this would lead to drinking water crisis in my district in the coming years. Apart from this the project would acquire about 300 sq.km. land. This would create an adverse impact not only on the agriculture sector but also deprive the livelihood of agricultural labours and their dependants in my district. As I have already mentioned that farmers in my district have lost their agriculture lands for MSEZ and MRPL projects. Since these two projects are not yet complete, the farmers are at a loss and also the agriculture sectors were badly affected.

The proposed PCPIR project would need to acquire one taluka each from Dakshina Kannada and Udupi districts of Karnataka state. People of these regions are strongly opposing the project as it would affect their livelihood. Since I am representing Dakshina Kannada Lok Sabha constituency in the Parliament, I feel it is my moral duty to convey the feelings of my people to the Union Government against the proposed PCPIR project and urge upon the Government to withdraw the said proposal immediately.

I would also like to request the Union Government to introduce Special Agriculture Zone (SAZ) to implement agriculture based projects in my Dakshina Kannada district.