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Title: Need for permission to lay pipelines along National Highway Nos. 46, 4 and 234 to supply drinking water in Tiruvannamalai, Vellore and Arakonam Parliamentary Constituencies in Tamil Nadu.

SHRI B. SENGUTTUVAN (VELLORE): Madam, I would thank you for affording me this opportunity to raise an important issue relating to the drinking water problem in Vellore District.

Vellore District is facing chronic water shortage crisis. In order to tide over the crisis, our Party Chief Dr. Puratchi Thalaivi Amma conceived of a scheme called the Combined Water Supply Scheme fetching water from the Chekkanur Dam in Salem District to Jolarpet, Tirupattur, Vaniyambadi, Ambur, Gudiyattam, Vellore, Katpadi, Ranipet, Walajapet and Arakonam over a distance of 313 kms. which will be benefiting a total population of about 20 lakh people residing in Vellore Corporation, 11 Municipalities, five Town Panchayats as well as 944 village habitations. Though the Scheme has almost been completed, yet, at certain places, along and across the National Highways NH-46, NH-4 and NH-234, the pipelines have to be laid. The TWAD Board, which is entrusted with the job of execution of this project, approached the National Highways Authority of India as well as the National Highways Department to secure permission to lay the pipeline along and across the road at certain important sections. The National Highways Authority of India, particularly, the Chief Engineer and the Project Director at Krishnagiri declined permission on the ground that when a similar project was executed between Kancheepuram and Sriperumbudur, an outlay to the tune of Rs.3 crore was yet to be paid by the TWAD Board.

Now, the situation is very grim in Vellore District which comprises three Parliamentary Constituencies of Thiruvannamalai which falls in Vellore District as well as Arakonam Constituency. The people are faced with an acute water shortage problem. Because of the bickering between the NHAI and the TWAD Board, people are not able to fully realize the fruits of this wonderful scheme which was a challenging one and which was executed within a record short time.

The National Highway Department besides is sitting over the application claiming that there is shortage of manpower in disposing of the application. Therefore, I would request the concerned Ministry to look into the problem and immediately find a solution.