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Title: Need to issue orders to GAIL for laying gas pipelines along the National Highways and not through agricultural land.

\*SHRIMATI V. SATHYABAMA (TIRUPPUR): Hon. Chairman Sir, Vanakkam. Thank you for this opportunity. Hon. Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu *Puratchithalaivi* Amma, in a letter addressed to Hon. Prime Minister, has sought his intervention in issuing orders to GAIL to cooperate with the Expert Committee set up by Tamil Nadu Government to find out ways and means of laying the gas pipelines alongside the National Highways in 7 districts of Tamil Nadu without affecting the lives of farmers as well as common man. These gas pipelines of GAIL may be realigned along the Highways instead of laying them through farms lands. The Kochi-Kootanad-Mangaluru-Bengaluru gas pipeline project of GAIL is expected to traverse 7 districts of Tamil Nadu viz. Tiruppur, Erode, Coimbatore, Salem, Namakkal, Dharmapuri and Krishnagiri and is expected to cause irreparable damage to the assets and agricultural land of thousands of farmers of Tamil Nadu. This gas pipeline project would cover 310 kilometres with an affected area of 20 metres width. Due to the implementation of this project, around 1,20,000 fruit bearing trees like mango, jackfruit and coconut trees will be uprooted. Keeping in view all these aspects, Tamil Nadu Government advised to immediately stop the laying of gas pipelines through farm lands and find other ways of laying them alongside the National Highways. In this situation, Hon. Supreme Court had issued orders restricting farmers to use the specified land allotted for laying of gas pipeline. On this issue, the concerned State government is fully dependant on the Union Government. Moreover this is a very sensitive issue affecting the livelihood of large number of people, particularly farmers, belonging to 7 districts of Tamil Nadu. I once again urge that the Hon. Prime Minister should intervene in this matter and issue orders to GAIL for laying gas pipelines alongside the National Highways and not through agricultural land. Thank you.