

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 95**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 29<sup>th</sup> January, 2026

**KOCHI-KANYAKUMARI-THOOTHUKUDI NATURAL GAS PIPELINE PROJECT**

95. SMT. KANIMOZHI KARUNANIDHI:

पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्री

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the current status of the Kochi-Kanyakumari-Thoothukudi Natural Gas Pipeline Project;
- (b) whether the Government has received concerns from farmers and local communities regarding the potential impact of the said project on agricultural lands, if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the details of the technical specifications for pipeline laying including the depth of burial, construction methodology such as open trench or horizontal directional drilling and installation of warning mats above buried pipelines; and
- (d) whether any specific mitigation strategies have been planned to minimize disruption during construction, including measures for land restoration to original condition post laying, ensuring that agricultural activities can continue without hindrance and the timeline for restoration works, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

**ANSWER**

पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री  
(श्री सुरेश गोपी)

**MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS  
(SHRI SURESH GOPI)**

- (a) Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB) is the authority to grant authorization to entities to lay, build, operate and expand Natural Gas Pipelines. PNGRB vide Public Notice dated 17.10.2024 had invited bids under single-stage, two-bid system from the interested and eligible entities for authorization to lay, build, operate or expand Kochi-Kanyakumari-Thoothukudi Natural Gas Pipeline (KKTPL) under Regulation 5 of the Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (Authorizing Entities to Lay, Build, Operate or Expand Natural Gas Pipelines) Regulations, 2008. Subsequently, the bidding process has been completed and the authorization to the successful bidder is to be done by PNGRB.
- (b) Upon authorization by PNGRB and before acquisition of Right of User in land for natural gas pipeline, the concerns of farmers and local communities are heard by the Competent Authority notified under section 2(a) of the Petroleum and Minerals Pipelines (Acquisition of Right of User in Land) Act, 1962.

(c) Upon authorization of KKTPL by PNGRB, the authorized entity shall be required to comply with Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (Technical Standards and Specifications including Safety Standards for Natural Gas Pipelines) Regulations, 2009, which covers pipeline design, materials and equipment, welding, fabrication, installation (including specifications for the depth of burial, construction methodology such as open trench or horizontal directional drilling and installation of warning mats above buried pipelines), testing, commissioning, operation and maintenance and corrosion control of natural gas pipelines including safety requirements.

(d) As per the provisions of PNGRB (Technical Standards and Specifications including Safety Standards for Natural Gas Pipelines) Regulations, 2009, backfilling shall be carried out immediately to the extent possible after the pipeline has been lowered into the trench. Excavated soil from the trench shall be used for backfilling unless the same is not suitable. The backfill material shall contain no extraneous material and / or hard lumps of soil, which could damage the pipe and / or coating or leave voids in the backfilled trench. In cultivable land and other specifically designated areas, topsoil excavated from the trench and stored separately, shall be restored to normal conditions. Wherever the pipeline is laid through agriculture land, once the pipeline laying is completed, the land is restored to its original state and can be used for cultivation/agriculture.

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