

Sixteenth Loksabha

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Title: Regarding Agriculture University at Guntur, Andhra Pradesh.

SHRI JAYADEV GALLA (GUNTUR): The Andhra Pradesh Reorganiastion has given mandate to Government of India to set up Agriculture University in my Constituency of Guntur in Andhra Pradesh. For this purpose, Government of Andhra Pradesh allocated 110 acres of land worth Rs. 550 crores, including construction of boundary wall, and the foundation-stone for this university was laid in November. 2015.

The estimated cost of the project is Rs. 1,504 crore. But, the Ministry, in the last four years, released just Rs. 135 crore and this year an amount of Rs. 65 crore was budgeted. It means, in five years, Government has sanctioned Rs. 200 crore. It further means, on an average, Government of India has been releasing Rs. 40 crore per year. Total estimated cost is Rs. 1,504 crore. And, if you calculate release of funds at this pace, it takes years to complete this university. Is this the mandate that the Act given to Government of India?

Now that Government has abolished Planning Commission and 12th Five Year Plan is the last plan that we have as of now and there is no 13th Five Year Plan, it clearly means that Government has to complete it by the end of 12th Plan and 12th Plan was over in 2017 itself So, the project is already delayed for one year. If it delays further, there will be cost and time overrun.

In view of the above, I request the hon. Agriculture Minister and HRD Minister to put pressure on Finance Ministry and get sufficient funds so that this university is completed in coming 1-2 years.