

Regarding need to include Vedavathi Lift Irrigation, Gundrevula and Rejolibanda Diversion Scheme Project in Andhra Pradesh under Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme of Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana-Laid

SHRI BASTIPATI NAGARAJU (KURNOOL): I rise to bring attention of the Government to the distressing situation in Kurnool, where 50% of the population resides in drought-prone zones. Our farmers face repeated droughts and lack adequate water for irrigation, forcing many to leave their homes and livelihoods in search of better opportunities. In March 2019, Andhra Pradesh Government initiated the Vedavathi Lift Irrigation, Gundrevula, and Rajolibanda Diversion Scheme (RDS) projects to address this crisis. Unfortunately, these critical projects have been stagnated, exacerbating the hardships of our farmers. Currently the Andhra Pradesh Government has allocated ₹16,705 crores in its latest budget, prioritising the completion of these irrigation projects. It has also introduced a forward-looking Water Policy aimed at bringing water to every possible field. To support this initiative, I urge the Central Government to include the Vedavathi Lift Irrigation, Gundrevula, and RDS projects under the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana's Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Program. This will transform Rayalaseema into "Ratnalaseema" ensuring a better future for the people of the region.