

Title: Need to accord approval to pending irrigation projects of Karnataka.-Laid.

SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK (RAICHUR): Sir, irrigation facilities in Karnataka are the lesser in comparison to other States in the country, especially, the three States in the Krishna Basin. Apart from the dispute over sharing of Krishna river water, delay in according the clearance to the irrigation projects of the State of Karnataka is one of the main reasons for such low irrigation facility. Presently, Karnataka is not utilizing even its share of 734 TMC in the Krishna Basin as allocated by Krishna Water Dispute Tribunal. Whereas, the other two States are utilizing more than their share. The State Government of Karnataka had submitted to the Union Government some irrigation projects such as Upper Tunga Project, Bhima Lift Irrigation Scheme, Upper Krishna Project, Stage-II and so on under the Master Plan of Krishna Basin to utilize the 734 TMC for irrigation purposes of the State. But, all the projects are pending with the Central Water Commission as well as with the Environment Department for a long period. Here, it is also submitted that there is a condition of utilizing the allocated share by 2000 A.D. In case of failure in utilizing the allocated share, the share will be re-allocated among the three States in Krishna Basin and there is a fear of loss of share by the Karnataka State. So, there is a need to accord approval immediately to the pending irrigation projects of Karnataka.

Therefore, I request the hon. Ministers of Water Resources, and Environment and Forests to accord approval to all the pending irrigation projects of Karnataka so that it may utilize its allocated share of 734 TMC awarded by KWDT.