

Title: Requested to take up the Icchhampalli and Polavaram irrigation projects on the Godavari in Andhra Pradesh as national projects.

SHRI MUDRAGADA PADMANABHAM (KAKINADA): I want to bring to the notice of this august House the position about the Icchhampalli and Polavaram irrigation projects on the river Godavari in Andhra Pradesh which have been kept pending from the day of Independence, for more than 50 years. Though they have become household names in Andhra Pradesh they are yet to materialise.

The Government of Andhra Pradesh had asked the Centre to take up these projects as national projects. But the Centre has not responded to do it so far favourably. These projects were first proposed by Sir Arthur Cotton, a great British engineer.

If the Icchhampalli Project could materialise three lakh acres of land can be irrigated and 1100 MW of power can be produced. The storage capacity will be 285 TMC ft.

The Polavaram Project though originally conceived by Sir Arthur Cotton, was propagated by Dr. K.L. Rao, an eminent Indian engineer and Minister of Irrigation at the Centre in the Cabinet of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru. If their dreams come true 7.5 acres of land in the four coastal districts can be irrigated and 750 MW of power can be generated.

I request the Union Government to take up these bread-winning projects as national projects immediately. I would also like to know whether the Government has given a thought to the rehabilitation of the people in the places where these projects are proposed to be taken up.