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Title: Need to take measures for de-silting of Nagarjuna Sagar and Srisaillam dams in Andhra Pradesh.

SHRI M. VENUGOPALA REDDY (NARASARAOPET): I would like to draw the kind attention of the august House regarding the need to desilt dams and reservoirs all over the country particularly in Nagarjuna Sagar Dam and Srisaillam Dam in Andhra Pradesh.

Nagarjuna Sagar dam, which has been instrumental in making Andhra Pradesh a rice granary, has lost over one-fourth of its storage capacity, so far, due to extensive silting in the project catchment area. The reservoir is no longer able to store water to its full capacity of 408 tmcft (thousand million cubic ft). Now, it can impound only 288.17 tmcft. The paddy crisis in the State is worsened with Nagarjuna Sagar, one of the major irrigation sources in the state, losing its storage capacity to a great extent due to piling up of silt. It has lost almost 20% of its storage capacity due to extensive siltation in the project catchment area. The dam is fast filling up with mud and sand. The reservoir was accumulating 3.07 hectare-metre of silt annually for each 100 sq km of its water-spread. It is a known fact that reservoirs across the Godavari get silted fast as the river flows through black-cotton soils. There is a fall in the storage capacity of Srisaillam from 308.06 tmcft to 263.63 tmcft in 1987 and a recent survey reveals that it was reduced to 210 tmcft. If remedial measures are not taken in time, it will lose its full capacity in the coming 70 to 80 years.

I, therefore, request the Hon'ble Minister of Water Resources, through the Chair, to take immediate steps like construction of silt-arresting tanks on the slopes of river banks, afforestation in the catchment area and growing of grass on river margins to prevent erosion, silt and cutting of dams and reservoirs not only in Andhra Pradesh but all over the country with some action plan to protect the farmers' interests and to increase the power production capacity.