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title: Need to declare Pranahita-Chevella Irrigation Project in Telangana as National Irrigation Project.

SHRI BALKA SUMAN (PEDDAPALLI): Madam, two of the longest rivers in South India, Krishna and Godavari – Godavari is called as the Ganges of South – flow through the States of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh. It is said to know that we are not able to effectively utilize the waters of Godavari to the benefit of the States and also to the benefit of the nation properly.

In the combined State of Andhra Pradesh, while this problem was recognized, efforts were not made to utilize the water properly. That is why, many farmers of Telangana committed suicide and many youths of Telangana migrated to gulf countries. The bifurcation provided the great opportunity and national status awarded to the Polavaram irrigation project. Similarly, awarding national status to the Pranahita-Chevella irrigation project is under consideration.

The Polavaram irrigation project, with so many obstacles such as court cases, displacement of lakhs of tribals and affecting the neighbouring States of Odisha and Chhattisgarh, was speedily awarded the national status. While the Pranahita-Chevella irrigation project, with none of these obstacles, the clearance of awarding national status is going at a very slow pace. Seven districts out of 10 districts of Telangana will benefit with 16 lakh acres because of this project. It has the ability to use 180 TMC water, boost the agricultural sector and also enhance the national food security.

I would urge upon the Government of India that speedy progress of this project is essential. Especially I would request the Central Water Commission to take immediate steps in clearing all the files pending before it. I would also request the Ministry of Environment and Forests and also the Ministry of Tribal Affairs to give speedy clearance for the Pranahita-Chevella project.

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Jayadev Galla and Dr. Ravindra Babu are permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri Balka Suman.