Chennai can bank on A.P. for water

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Chennai city, which grappled with severe drinking water shortage, can be assured of its full quota of Krishna water from Andhra Pradesh this season, as major reservoirs in Nellore district have comfortable storage.

The Kandaleru reservoir, which augments drinking water supply to the metropolis, has built up a healthy storage of over 40.82 tmcft water with the Krishna in spate in several spells.

“There will be no hitch in ensuring Chennai’s quota of 12 tmcft water in two spells ahead of the 2020 summer,” said sources in the Telugu Ganga project. Cities and towns dependent on the reservoirs in Nellore district for drinking water supply, which included Nellore and Tirupati, Srikalahasti, Venkatagiri and Kavali, will have no problem in ensuring the precious liquid, as the Somasila reservoir, which replenishes water to Kandaleru, is now full to its capacity.

Combined storage

The district has a combined storage of 119.56 tmcft including 74.62 tmcft in Somasila, which gets replenishment from the Kundu and the Krishna rivers, said Nellore Circle Superintending Engineer.

“We will have no problem in ensuring water to grow two crops under the Penna, Somasila, Kandaleru irrigation systems,” he told The Hindu.

With the release of more than 1 tmcft each day from the Somasila to the Kandeleru reservoirs, the latter could be expected to reach surplus in a month or so, he said.

The discharge from Kandaleru, which still had a flood cushion of 27.21 tmcft, was maintained at 3,566 cusecs of water.

Farmers happy

Farm activity picked up briskly in 8 lakh acres in the district after a long gap.

The farmers are a happier lot as they will also be able to go for a second crop during summer.

The district, which was in the grip of drought last year, is all set to receive fresh downpour in the wake of a new weather system developing in the Bay of Bengal this week.