



Information on Andhra Pradesh

Srikakulam District is the extreme Northeastern District of Andhra Pradesh. Vizianagaram District flanks in the south and west while Orissa bounds it on the north and Bay of Bengal on the East. The total area of the District is 5837 Sq. Kms. It has a population of 2537593 persons according to the 2001 census¹.

Last summer Andhra Pradesh faced a tight demand-supply situation. Power utilities in the state struggled to bridge the demand-supply gap for 3-4 months beginning with February last year. It had led to a 30-35 per cent production loss for the manufacturing industry on account of a 4-hour peak load cut and a three-day holiday (no power supply) for one week.²

The priority in terms of electricity has always gone to the rich in India. The tier one cities have always been given the best power at the expense of smaller cities and villages in India. However, the poor in India are the one who had to pay the price for India's massive power infrastructure in terms of displacement, economic loss and health impacts. Almost all big thermal power plants, dams or nuclear power plants are located in either rural areas or semi-urban parts of the country. Even with this sacrifice, access to quality power and in many cases electricity connection remained a dream for them.

To bridge the urban-rural gap & provide reliable and quality power supply to rural areas Government of India initiated **Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana (RGGVY)** in 2005 aimed to provide electricity access to all household by 2010.

Srikakulam district has second highest number of villages under per view of the RGGVY scheme across all districts of Andhra Pradesh. A total of 1810³ villages across 38 blocks (Mandals) of Srikakulam district have been incorporated in the RGGVY project. All the villages are of previously electrified and taken up for intense electrification category. Eastern Power Distribution Company Ltd. is the implementing agency of RGGVY in Srikakulam district of Andhra Pradesh.

According to RGGVY website data, 100% work on intense electrification has been achieved, however only 80.7% (157268 out of 194941) BPL households entitled for free connection have received the facility. Under the 10th five year plan Rs. 4779⁴ lakh been awarded (revised amount) to the district for implementation of which 90% money has been released to carry out the work. The budget allocation for entire Andhra Pradesh for RGGVY work has been Rs.876.4 crore of which 81.6% money has been released so far.

Greenpeace along with its Partner organisation **Bapuji Rural Enlightenment and Development Society**⁵ (BREDS) will carry out social audit of the scheme in the Srikakulam district. The aim of the audit is to bring out the implementation reality of the scheme and examine whether the mandate of the scheme has been fulfilled or not.

¹ <http://srikakulam.nic.in/>

² <http://www.business-standard.com/india/news/rIng-to-power-ap-gas-plants/423093/>

³ <http://rggvv.gov.in/rggvv/rggvvportal/bcovered.jsp?stcd=28&dtcd=11>

⁴ http://rggvv.gov.in/rggvv/rggvvportal/plgsheet_frame3.jsp

⁵ <http://www.breds.org.in/partnerships.html>