

AP Agriculture Dept releases notification soon

Minister for Agriculture Prathipati Pulla Rao on Wednesday said that all departments allied to the Agriculture Department would start functioning from Guntur on a full scale from June 27.

Speaking to media persons after inaugurating the renovated premises of Agricultural Marketing Department at Chuttugunta here, Mr. Pulla Rao said that all the 84 employees would start working from the makeshift facility and soon 16 other vacant posts would be filled on deputation basis. The premises also houses the Minister's camp office and offices of Sericulture and Horticulture.

The Agricultural Marketing Department has a cadre strength of 164 and soon recruitment would be taken up to fill the vacancies, he said.

Commissioner of Marketing P. Mallikarjuna Rao said that though all facilities have been set up, some files are yet to arrive from Hyderabad.

The department has administrative control of 191 Agricultural Market Committees and 80 Rythu Bazaars. New Rythu Bazaars would be established at S. Kota (Vizianagaram district), Mandapeta (East Godavari district), Ponnur (Guntur), and work has started on setting up Rythu Bazaars at Gannavaram (Krishna), Payakapuram (Krishna), Gandhinagar (Vijayawada), Tiruvuru (Krishna), Kuchipudi (Krishna), Peddapuram (East Godavari), and Velpuru (West Godavari).

Market intervention

The Rythu Bazaars would be equipped with all facilities, including drinking water (Sujala), toilets (Sulabha), CCTV surveillance system, public address system, and electronic price display. The department would also improve market intervention by direct procurement of agricultural produce from farmers. Onion storage facility was being set up at six places in Kurnool with 550 tonne capacity with a cost of Rs.5.50 crore. The department has already procured 2,678 tonnes of onions directly from farmers at the field level and sold them at Rythu Bazaars.