

A.P. can do preliminary work on water project

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The Andhra Pradesh government can proceed with the initial work for the Rayalaseema Lift Irrigation Project but cannot commence physical work till the National Green Tribunal decides on an application against the implementation of the scheme, the southern bench of the NGT has ruled.

The Bench of Justice K. Ramakrishnan and expert member Saibal Dasgupta on Monday modified an interim order passed in May that prevented the Andhra Pradesh government from proceeding with the project. The relief came after counsel for the State submitted that no work on ground has started for implementing the project and they are only in the stage of preparing the project report and calling for tenders.

The counsel said the State was unable to proceed with the preliminary work of preparing the project report and calling for tenders due to the stay orders issued in May. Only after the project report is finalised, will they be able to consider as to whether prior Environment Clearance is required or not, the counsel said. The State also gave an undertaking that it will not launch the work on the ground without further orders from the Tribunal.
