

Tribals to boycott polls

RAMPACHODAVARAM: Tribals of Bhupatipalem, Gandhinageram, Lankapakalu and Chinna Geddada had decided to boycott elections to be held on Saturday in protest against the move to construct a reservoir across Sitapalli drain at Bhupatipalem, stating that their farmland would get submerged under it. About 1,100 acres of farmland is there in the four villages. In a statement the affected farmers alleged that the Government had taken unilateral decision in regard to construction of the reservoir at Bhupatipalem without taking their opinion into consideration. Cashewnut orchards, palm grounds and tamarind trees would be submerged with the execution of the project. A proposal for the reservoir was made eight years ago. But, it has not materialised so far. However, the district administration had showed little attention for the development of the villages on the pretext that they would be submerged, the tribals alleged. They were reluctant to leave the place even if they were rehabilitated at Pundrapattapalem, 30 km away from the reservoir.