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Title: Regarding urgent need for railway line and construction of railway bridges in Amalapuram Parliamentary Constituency.

SHRIMATI CHINTA ANURADHA (AMALAPURAM): Hon. Speaker, Sir, I am thankful to you for allowing me to give my maiden speech. I am a first-time elected representative to this august House.

I am also thankful to the Leader of my Party and the hon. Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, Shri Y.S. Jaganmohan Reddy for deeming me very good worthy of this gathering.

Sir, I represent the aspirations of more than 22 lakh people of which nearly 14.5 lakh are electorates of Amalapuram constituency. Our people have been longing for a railway line since Independence. However, it has remained a distant dream even till date. Everyday our people traverse nearly 100 kilometres to Rajahmundry and 250 kilometres to Vijayawada and face numerous troubles to reach the railway line. It is due to lack of railway line that development activities like transport, trading, employment and tourism are on hold.

Here, I would like to state that our State being the largest producer of coconut, equal to Kerala, we lack railway transport facilities. So, there is an urgent need of a railway line.

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13.00 hrs

Sir, though the previous Government under Shri Narendra Modiji had sanctioned one bridge over Gautami River, one of the tributaries of the

Godavari, the work has not yet started and our dream remains far from fulfilment. While we desperately need two more railway bridges immediately, to connect Kakinada with Narsapuram, over the Vainateya and the Vasishta, both being two other major tributaries of the Godavari, but unfortunately, the alignments have been changed more than three times so far, and the process of land acquisition has not even begun.

The majority of people who reside in these areas are Dalits, and the others belong to backward classes and economically poorer sections of the society. They have been living there since generations with same small and micro landholdings, but with deep emotional attachments. Therefore, the compensation has to be not only just and fair but also commensurate with the pain of their emotional detachment as well.

Sir, I appeal to the hon. Finance Minister and the hon. Railway Minister, through you, to expedite the matter and complete the sanction process in this Budget Session itself, and the land acquisition should also be completed at the earliest.