

**Reg. Request to consider Eluru to have a stop for Vande Bharat Express between Hyderabad and Visakhapatnam.**

**SHRI SRIDHAR KOTAGIRI (ELURU):** Sir, exactly ten years ago, in the Sixteenth Lok Sabha, the great State of Andhra Pradesh was divided by making several promises under the A. P. Reorganisation Act. One of the promises was for providing a South Coastal Railway Zone in Visakhapatnam. It was finally approved in the 17<sup>th</sup> Lok Sabha in 2019, but it is yet to become reality. The DPRs are still under review. No timeframe was fixed to make this an operational railway zone while special status is still pending. People of Andhra Pradesh are eagerly appealing for making other promises a reality and I request the Government to make our dream for a South Coastal Railway Zone a reality. Also, on a side note, there is a new Vande Bharat Express from Hyderabad to Visakhapatnam. My constituency is Eluru which is a district headquarters with almost two lakh people and almost one million people live around Eluru but, unfortunately, there is no stop in Eluru. The next stop from Eluru is almost 200 kms in Rajahmundry. I request the hon. Railway Minister to consider Eluru to have a stop for Vande Bharat Express between Hyderabad and Visakhapatnam.