

Regarding need to establish a Services Selection Board (SSB) Centre for Army at Vizianagaram or Vishakhapatnam-Laid

SHRI APPALANAIDU KALISSETTI (VIZIANAGARAM): I would like to bring to the attention of the Government an important issue concerning the youth and defence aspirants of Andhra Pradesh. Despite our state's long-standing contribution to the armed forces, Andhra Pradesh does not have a Services Selection Board (SSB) centre for the Army. As a result, candidates who clear the NDA, CDS, and other officer-level written examinations are forced to travel long distances—to Bhopal, Allahabad, or Bengaluru—for their interviews. This poses a significant financial and logistical burden, particularly on candidates from rural and economically weaker backgrounds. My Parliamentary Constituency, Vizianagaram, along with neighbouring districts like Srikakulam and Visakhapatnam, has a proud legacy of sending youth to serve in the Indian Army. However, the absence of an SSB centre in our state acts as a barrier for many deserving aspirants. I urge the Ministry of Defence to consider setting up of an Army SSB centre in Andhra Pradesh, preferably in Vizianagaram or Visakhapatnam, where land, infrastructure, and connectivity are readily available. This will not only ease the journey for thousands of aspirants in Andhra Pradesh and neighbouring states like Odisha and Chhattisgarh, but also promote equitable access to defence services across regions.