

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY (KHAMMAM): I just want to seek a clarification. The House is in Session. Today Session comes to an end. I have just learnt and I have got valuable information regarding Visakhapatnam Steel Plant. Even as the House is seized of the matter, the State Government has asked for the transfer of the land belonging to the Visakhapatnam Steel Plant land, a public sector undertaking, for the development of Gangavaram Port. Earlier, the Union Government had written to the State Government saying that they will develop it as a satellite port. The Chief Minister has denied the rights to them. Whereas now they have done a volte-face and even while we are debating on this issue, the transfer of this land has taken place and they have asked for it.

On Tuesday, there is going to be a Cabinet meeting where a decision will be taken for the transfer of the land of a public sector undertaking land to a private organisation. I wanted to know as to what is the protection we have. Which are the fora from where we can raise this issue? ...*(Interruptions)* This is the fact. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI (VISAKHAPATNAM): The Government of Andhra Pradesh wanted to develop the Gangavaram Port. The Government itself is asking the land. They are also giving the alternate land to the Union Government to the extent they require for the Steel plant. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY (KHAMMAM): This is a distorted version. It is not the correct version, Sir. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI (VISAKHAPATNAM): The Government is developing the port. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY (KHAMMAM): This hon. Member is misguiding the Parliament. ...*(Interruptions)* He stands charged as such. They are misguiding. ...*(Interruptions)* There is a record which categorically shows that the Union Governmentâ€¦...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI (VISAKHAPATNAM): The Government of Andhra Pradesh is developing the port. What is wrong in it? ...*(Interruptions)* It is between the Government and the Government. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY (KHAMMAM): Why the State Government accedes to this when the Union Minister for Surface Transport â€¦...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI (VISAKHAPATNAM): It is not the correct version, Sir. ...*(Interruptions)* Gangavaram is a minor port. This port belongs to the Government of Andhra Pradesh. ...*(Interruptions)* I want to straighten the facts. ...*(Interruptions)* She wanted to say something and she said. Now, you have to allow me to say something. ...*(Interruptions)* Why is she interfering? ...*(Interruptions)*

(c2/1310/ksp/jr)

Sir, I belong to Visakhapatnam constituency. I have to put the record straight and it is my duty to straighten the record. â€¦...*(Interruptions)* Gangavaram Port belongs to the Government of Andhra Pradesh. There are no two opinions about it. The Government of Andhra Pradesh wanted to develop Gangavaram Port. â€¦...*(Interruptions)* Sir, she wanted to say something and she had already made her submission. Now, she cannot disturb me like this. Everybody gives a distorted version. Everybody wants to involve in this matter as if they are the saviours. Everybody feels that they are the saviours of this country and everybody feels that they are the saviours of this Government. Why should they feel like that? â€¦...*(Interruptions)*

Sir, Gangavaram Port belongs to the Government of Andhra Pradesh and they wanted to develop Gangavaram Port. It is the primary duty of the Government of Andhra Pradesh to develop the minor ports. It is not a major port. Gangavaram Port is a minor port which is under the purview of the Government of Andhra Pradesh. The land has been acquired earlier by the Visakhapatnam Steel Plant. So, the Government of Andhra Pradesh is requesting them that that land should be handed over to the Government of Andhra Pradesh. If the land is being handed over to a private party, I would have accepted. The Government of Andhra Pradesh has got every right to take the land from the Visakhapatnam Steel Plant. Alternatively, the steel plant is being given sufficient land. â€¦...*(Interruptions)* So, it is a baseless allegation that she has made. I challenge her to prove that the land is being acquired by a private party. â€¦...*(Interruptions)* The Government of Andhra Pradesh is acquiring that land for developing Gangavaram Port. The Government of Andhra Pradesh has got every right to ask the Union Government to hand over the land. It is a matter between Government of Andhra Pradesh and the Union Government.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Murthy, it is all right. Please conclude now.

SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHY (VISAKHAPATNAM): Sir, the Government of Andhra Pradesh is requesting the Union Government to hand over the land to them. How does a private party come into the picture here? â€¦...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Murthy, please take your seat. Shri Ramdas Athawale.

â€¦...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record except what Shri Ramdas Athawale says.

â€¦...*(Interruptions)* (Not recorded)