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Title: Need to continue operation of Cyclone Warning Centre at Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh.

SHRIMATI BOTCHA JHANSI LAKSHMI (VIZIANAGARAM): Cyclone Warning Centre (CWC), Visakhapatnam, is functioning for the welfare of East Coast people. It predicts and informs about tropical cyclones and cyclonic storms, occurring in the Bay of Bengal. It is one of the five Cyclone Warning Centres across the country, which comes under the Meteorological Department, providing invaluable services. The CWC, Visakhapatnam informs the wind speed, direction and alerts the coastal residents' about approaching cyclones right from Srikakulam to Nellore. Its invaluable services are praiseworthy in alerting and saving the valuable life of local fishermen and also as a study Centre informing the Andhra University Research Scholars. Initially, the CWC was started before Independence as Forecasting Centre and later on, it was renamed as Cyclone Warning Centre in 1976. Though there are lot many Area Cyclone Warning Centres across the country, alerts and warnings from Vizag CWC are very important due to its existence on the costal area.

The quality of results will not be of much value if the CWC shifts from costal area to plateau and reduces its staff. Concerned Department officials might be thinking that its services are not required after establishment of Doppler Centre at Visakhapatnam in 2006.

I, therefore, urge upon the Government to take immediate measures not to shift the Cyclone Warning Centre from Visakhapatnam and request you to kindly stop such proposals in the interest of public.