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Title: Need to develop Nagpur as the second capital of the country.

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR (NAGPUR): The problems of Delhi include a wide spectrum of socio-economic, political and physical problems. The severity of the problems are the declining environmental quality and inadequate urban infrastructural facilities including electricity, water, roads, transport, housing etc. The population of Delhi has shown tremendous growth during the past few years and has posed enough problems for city planning and governance.

The National Capital Region Planning Act, 1985 envisaged the necessity for developing new centres as counter magnets with a view to decentralize the functioning of the Central Government and to reduce the pressure on the National Capital of Delhi. Further Delhi is not only prone to manmade disasters but also natural disasters. Delhi lies in the sensitive earthquake zone and is vulnerable to destruction of property and loss of human lives. The unfortunate dastardly attack on the Parliament is also a matter of great concern. All such issues necessitate to seriously consider to find a safe and secure alternative capital.

Considering the centrality and safety of the place, Prime Minister Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru and the then Defence Minister, Shri Y.B. Chavan established all the three Defence production factories at Nagpur and its adjoining districts of Chandrapur and Bhandara after the Chinese invasion. In view of the existing situation it becomes imperative to give thought for alternative capital with a view to help balance development and urbanization thereby discouraging to avoid over concentration of economic, political and social activities in one place. There is no denying the fact that Nagpur is the only city in the country which qualifies as the second capital of the country. Nagpur is the second capital of Maharashtra and the geographical capital of the country has potential due to its central location for trade and distribution and being a strategic place among the international aviation route. Therefore, the number of Government offices and PSUs can easily be shifted from Delhi to Nagpur. Delhi needs to be kept spruced up and well looking to make it attractive for the existence of Embassies and Chanceries of foreign countries. This will not only reduce the pressure on Delhi but also homogeneously create a well developed place for making the second capital of India viz. Nagpur. In the modern age, there should not be any problem in easy communication today when the technological advancement has reduced the distance amongst the cities.

Therefore, I would urge upon the Government to shift PSUs and Government offices to Nagpur and agree to develop Nagpur as the Second Capital of the country. This proposal was made by me more than a decade before and being pursued thereafter but it seems Government have not so far taken any initiative in this direction.