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Title: Need to introduce an additional train from Vishakhapatnam to Araku in Andhra Pradesh.

SHRIMATI KOTHAPALLI GEETHA (ARAKU) : I would like to draw kind attention of the Government towards the dire need to sanction an additional train from Visakhapatnam to Araku and vice-versa to improve the tourism.

In this regard, I would like to bring to notice that Araku situated in Andhra Pradesh is a fast growing tourism destination. At present, there is only one train (one trip per day) operating between Visakhapatnam and Araku and it runs with full passenger capacity. This train runs through beautiful hills and valleys, natural water falls and greenery and many of the visitors prefer travelling by train to enjoy the beautiful nature. It is the dream of the Araku people that one day the Government will promote a glass train which becomes very successful and pride of Andhra Pradesh. Many private organizations are also ready to invest for the train in PPP mode also and this proposal is pending with Railway Ministry for the past 3 decades. Though many promises have been made but all in vain.

The bookings finish well in advance and many tourists end up in disappointment of not getting a chance to travel. Hence, I request the Government to immediately conduct a viability check on this route and provide for second train on this route. I also request to kindly examine the possibility of introducing a glass train in PPP mode, which will certainly boost up tourism in the area.

Keeping in view the position explained above, I request the Hon'ble Minister of Railways to kindly consider and do the needful urgently.

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13.26 hrs.

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (GENERAL), 2015-16