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title: Need to set up a new Railway Zone with headquarters at Visakhapatnam in Andhra Pradesh.

SHRI MUTHAMSETTI SRINIVASA RAO (AVANTHI) (ANAKAPALLI): Respected Madam Speaker, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to raise a matter of urgent public importance during 'Zero Hour'. ...(*Interruptions*)

The Government of India had assured in the A.P. Reorganization Act, 2014 that a new Railway Zone would be set up in Andhra Pradesh comprising of three Divisions, namely, Vijayawada, Guntur and Guntakal, and the Waltair Division of the East Coast Railway. For almost a decade, there has been a demand for a new Railway Zone with Visakhapatnam as its Headquarters, as the present Waltair Division is the highest revenue earner in the East Coast Railway Zone. The total earnings of the Waltair Division is about Rs. 6,280 crore in 2013-14, which is about 50 per cent of the total annual revenue of the East Coast Railway Zone....(*Interruptions*)

Visakhapatnam has a natural advantage of having two major ports. Abundant land bank is readily available near the Visakhapatnam Railway Station. Waltair Division has the biggest Loco Shed and an excellent Coach Maintenance Depot. ...(*Interruptions*)

As we all know, Visakhapatnam is the fastest growing city in Asia having several reputed organizations like Eastern Naval Command, NSTL, BHEL, BARC, HPCL Refinery etc., and the present Waltair Railway Division has all medical, educational, sports infrastructures etc., to meet the requirements of the new Railway Zone. ...(*Interruptions*)

After the bifurcation of Andhra Pradesh, the formation of a new Railway Zone in Andhra Pradesh has become imperative as the Headquarters of the South Central Railway is located at Secunderabad of Telangana State. It is obvious to integrate the three Divisions of South Central Railway with Waltair Division of the East Coast Railway and give Andhra Pradesh a new Railway Zone to give fillip to its economy. Of course, Visakhapatnam is the ideal choice for locating the Headquarters of the proposed new Railway Zone. ...(*Interruptions*)

In view of the natural advantages, I would urge upon the Government to announce the creation of a new Railway Zone with Headquarters at Visakhapatnam without any further delay. ...(*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER:

Shri Bhairon Prasad Mishra is permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri Muthamsetti Srinivasa Rao (Avanthi).