

Sixteenth Loksabha

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Title: Regarding setting up of a major port at Ramayapatnam in Andhra Pradesh.

SHRI Y.V. SUBBA REDDY (ONGOLE): Every institution that has gone into viability of Dugarajapatnam port in Andhra Pradesh has rejected the proposal outright. Now, the NITI Aayog has given a final Report that major port at Dugarajapatnam in AP is commercially not viable and technically not feasible. NITI Aayog also reported that port at Dugarajapatnam will endanger the nearby Pulicat Lake and pose severe security threats to Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC) and Shrihari Kota Range (SHAR) located near the proposed port.

Secondly, the GoAP considered the Expert Committee Report of Shipping Ministry and recommended to the Government of India in 2012 to set up a major port at Ramayapatnam in Prakasam district of AP as it is away from environmental problems and also away from Pulicat Lake, SDSC and SHAR.

Thirdly, Ramayapatnam is just 50 kms away from Dugarajapatnam; no dredging is required since sea is deep at Ramayapatnam; rail and road link is just 5 kms. from the coast of Ramayapatnam unlike Dugarajapatnam where we have to construct long road and rail for connecting main lines; and, enough land is available, so there is no need to acquire land from private people.

Fourthly, I am given to understand that Asian Development Bank has recently given a Report recommending to develop one major port in Gujarat and one major port on the East Coast of AP and Ramayapatnam is the most suitable location.

In view of the above and in the light of NITI Aayog's recommendation, it is most appropriate and a win-win situation for industry and local people to set up major port at

Ramayapatnam as it achieves the twin objectives of economic viability and provide employment opportunities which is the main thrust of this Government and if need be, AP Reorganisation Act be amended for this purpose.