

Sixteenth Loksabha

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Title: Need to create a new Railway Zone with Headquarters at Vishakhapatnam

SHRI MUTHAMSETTI SRINIVASA RAO (AVANTHI) (ANAKAPALLI): Respected Madam Speaker, I thank you for giving me opportunity.

The Government of India had assured in the A.P. Reorganization Bill 2014 that a new Railway Zone will be set up in Andhra Pradesh comprising 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.6,000 crore in 2013-14, which is more than 50 per cent of the total annual Revenue of the East Coast Railway Zone.

Madam Speaker, Visakhapatnam has the 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.

Visakhapatnam is the fastest growing city in Asia. After the bifurcation of Andhra Pradesh, the formation of a new Railway Zone in Andhra Pradesh has become a necessity as the Headquarters of the South Central Railway is located at Secunderabad of Telangana State. It is an obvious need to integrate Waltair Division of the East Coast Railway with the three Divisions of South Central Railway and give Andhra Pradesh a New Railway Zone and Visakhapatnam is the ideal choice for locating the Headquarters of the proposed New Railway Zone.

In view of the natural advantages, I urge upon the Government to announce creation of a New Railway Zone with Headquarters at Visakhapatnam without any further delay. This will assuage the feelings to some extent on separation Andhra Pradesh.