

Seventeenth Lok Sabha

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Title: Demand to set up concrete sleeper manufacturing unit at Bitragunta, Nellore district, Andhra Pradesh.

SHRI ADALA PRABHAKARA REDDY (NELLORE): Hon. Speaker, Sir, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to raise a very important issue of setting up of a Concrete Sleeper Manufacturing Unit at Bitragunta, Nellore District, Andhra Pradesh. The then Railway Minister, Shri Lalu Prasad laid the foundation stone for the Concrete Sleeper Manufacturing Unit at Bitragunta, SPSR Nellore District, Andhra Pradesh but the project remained a non-starter despite efforts by peoples' representatives from time to time. In order to use 1,100 acres of land belonging to the Railways which is lying idle at Bitragunta, we have prevailed upon the then Railway Minister to sanction the Unit in 2005. The project never took off due to indifferent attitude of the railway authorities and despite allocations being made in the Budget. In fact, Bitragunta was an important landmark for Railways, and it was one of the biggest locomotives sheds in Indian Railways till steam engines were replaced by diesel and electrical locomotives. The loco shed was constructed in 1885 and the roundhouse with turntable facilities was added in 1934. The shed had the capacity to handle 50 steam locomotives with major yard and interchanging depot for drivers and guards. It is still an interchanging depot for guards and drivers of goods and passenger trains.

Hon. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to request the hon. Railway Minister to start this project as early as possible.

