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Title: Regarding laying of railway lines in Vizianagaram and Srikakulum districts of Andhra Pradesh.

SHRIMATI BOTCHA JHANSI LAKSHMI (VIZIANAGARAM): Mr. Chairman, Sir, thank you for giving me this opportunity on the last day of the session of the Fifteenth Lok Sabha for raising a matter of urgent public importance. This is regarding laying of railway lines in one of the most backward areas, namely, the districts of Vizianagaram and Srikakulum.

I think, this is the most appropriate time to explore the possibilities and extend developmental activities to these coastal backward districts of Vizianagaram and Srikakulum after the State has been bifurcated. It has run into serious deficit on its being bifurcated.

These two districts still lack proper rail connectivity due to which people of these socially and economically backward areas are not able to develop their trade and other allied activities. There is an immediate need to sanction a long pending demand for a railway line between Vizianagaram – Palasa *via* Rajam, as part of the 3<sup>rd</sup> line augmentation between Vizianagaram – Palasa having high RoR or above 21 per cent for which detailed survey and estimate has been completed.

Vizianagaram, being a three State junction, there is need to establish a new Rail Coach Factory for upliftment of local backward people and also for railway operational convenience.