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Title: Need to set up a bench of Andhra Pradesh High Court between Guntur and Vijayawada in Andhra Pradesh.

SHRI M. VENUGOPALA REDDY (NARASARAOPET): The Government of India is well aware of the historical fact that the main seat of High Court was at Guntur during 1954-56, when Andhra State functioned with its capital at Kurnool. The capital as well as the seat of High Court was shifted to Hyderabad on the formation of the State of Andhra Pradesh in 1956. At that time, an assurance was given to people of Andhra that a bench of High Court would be constituted at Guntur.

As the assurance remained unfulfilled, the advocates as well as the public represented the issue to the Government on various occasions. The Government must be equally well aware of another important fact that more than 70 per cent of litigation in the High Court have been from the Coastal and Rayalaseema districts. The litigant public are put to great suffering as they spend huge money and face hardship because of the long distance they are made to travel all the way from Srikakulam and/or Chittoor to fight out their grievances at Hyderabad. This is against the accepted and vociferously professed principle of delivering justice at the door steps of the people in a democratic set up.

It is to be further noted that there are several benches functioning in several States which are smaller than the State of Andhra Pradesh.

We urge the Government of India, to take an urgent and positive stand and to initiate immediate steps for constituting Bench of High Court at a place between Guntur and Vijayawada as per the agreement of 1956, which is in tune with the aspirations and requirements of the people of Coastal Andhra Pradesh and Rayalaseema.