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Title: Need to establish a new railway zone at Vishakhapatnam in Andhra Pradesh.

SHRI MUTHAMSETTI SRINIVASA RAO (AVANTHI) (ANAKAPALLI): 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 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.6,280 crores in 2013-14 i.e., about 50% of the total annual revenue of the East Coast Railway Zone.

Visakhapatnam has natural advantage of having 2 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 having several reputed organizations like Eastern Naval Command, NSTL, BHEL, BARC, HPCL Refinery, Hinduja Power Project etc., and the present Waltair Railway Division has all medical, educational, sports, infrastructure etc., to meet the requirements of the new Railway Zone.

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 in Telangana. It is obvious to integrate Waltair Division of the East Coast Railway with 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.