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Title: Need for creation of a new Railway zone in Andhra Pradesh with Vishakhapatnam as its headquarters.

SHRI MUTHAMSETTI SRINIVASA RAO (AVANTHI) (ANAKAPALLI): The Government of India had, in the Andhra Pradesh Reorganization Act, 2014 assured that a new Railway Zone will be set up in Andhra Pradesh, comprising of 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, with about 50% of the total annual revenue of the East Coast Railway Zone. Visakhapatnam has natural advantage of having two Major Ports and 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, SHEL, BARC, HPCL Refinery, Hinduja Power Project etc., and the present Waltair Railway Division has all Medical, Educational, Sports, Infrastructure facilities 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 imperative as the Headquarters of the South Central Railway is located at Secunderabad of Telangana State. It is obvious to integrate the three Divisions of South Central Railway with Waltair Division of the East Coast Railway and give Andhra Pradesh a New Railway Zone to give a fillip to its economy 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 the creation of a New Railway Zone with Headquarters at Visakhapatnam without any further delay.