

Title: Need to set up an international airport with night-landing facilities at Vishakhapatnam in Andhra Pradesh -laid.

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY (VISAKHAPATNAM): Visakhapatnam is one of the most developed industrial cities in Andhra Pradesh. There are a large number of industrial units at present in Visakhapatnam, like Bharat Plates & Vessels Ltd., Coromondal Fertilisers Ltd., Hindustan Zinc Ltd., Hindustan Shipyards Ltd., Hindustan Petroleum, Visakhapatnam Port Trust, Dredging Corporation Ltd., Visakhapatnam Export Processing Zone and Visakhapatnam Steel Plant. Besides these, there are a large number of other industries coming up in this area and the city is developing rapidly.

In spite of the importance of Visakhapatnam, unfortunately, there are very poor airport facilities.

The City Airport also does not have the night landing facilities and infrastructure for landing of large aircrafts. Thus, there is a need to increase the length of the runway at the existing airport for landing of larger aircrafts and acquisition of adjoining land from the Visakhapatnam Port for expansion of the airport.

Further, on account of liberalisation of economic policies of the Government of India and the keen interest shown by the foreign investors in establishing the industrial units and also thrust on exports and imports through Visakhapatnam Port, there is an urgent need for having an International Airport at Visakhapatnam so that the foreign investors may have direct link with other State capitals of the country and also with foreign countries.

I urge upon the Union Government to consider setting up an International Airport duly provided with the latest modern facilities of International Airports with night landing facilities at Visakhapatnam.