

Title: Need to set up a major Loco shed or a carriage and wagon workshop in Bitragunta in Neilore district, A.P.

SHRIMATI LAKSHMI PANABAKA (NELLORE): Mr. Chairman, Sir, Bitragunta (Nellore District) in Andhra Pradesh is an important railway station as well as railway town on Indian Railways.

In steam days, the locos were being maintained in the loco shed at Bitragunta apart from other railway activities. The same loco shed was one of the biggest in the Indian Railways. It is a major yard and also inter-changing depots for the drivers and guards.

Consequent upon the closure of the steam loco shed in Bitragunta, the infrastructure, other equipment and land have not yet been utilised for any purpose. Several representations were made to the Railway Minister in 1997 that it should be converted into either a major electric loco shed or a carriage wagon workshop. But, so far, the Railways have not given any consideration to the proposal to make use of the existing infrastructure at Bitragunta. Sir, the people of Bitragunta had also given ultimatum to the Railway authorities that they would launch an agitation if their demand is not. I, therefore, urge upon the Railway Minister to look into the proposal submitted to the then Railway Minister to set up a major loco shed or a carriage and wagon workshop instead of developing a fresh one at other place by huge investment.