

New Railway Zone at Vizag

1571. DR. K.V.P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Ministry has been drawn to the growing demand for a Railway Zone with Vizag as headquarters and a local political leader even sitting on fast unto death; and

(b) if so, the steps being taken by Government to meet the demand?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) and (b) As per Item 8 of Schedule 13 (Infrastructure) of Andhra Pradesh Reorganization Act, 2014, Indian Railways is required to examine establishing a new Railway Zone in the successor State of Andhra Pradesh and take expeditious decision thereon. To, *inter-alia*, examine the feasibility of creation of the new Railway Zone, a committee of Senior Officers from Railways had been constituted by the Ministry of Railways. In this context, proposals from different sources have been received in this Ministry suggesting various locations, including Visakhapatnam, as the head-quarters of the new Railway Zone. The Ministry had asked the Committee to consult the various stakeholders also, including the Members of Parliament, State Governments, etc. before a final decision is taken.

Mishaps at railway stations

1572. SHRI K.K. RAGESH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether deaths caused by mishaps at railway platforms are on the rise in the country;

(b) if so, the number of deaths caused by such mishaps during the last three years; and

(c) whether Government has any proposal to contain the number of mishaps on railway stations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) and (b) No, Sir. There was only one incident of mishap/stampede which resulted in 37 deaths at Allahabad railway station reported in the year, 2013 in North Central Railway.

(c) Deployment of additional Railway Protection Force/Railway Protection Special Force personnel is done at station/platforms for crowd management and to handle extra