

Last month, the Railway Board has sanctioned detailed estimates for the construction of the new South Coast Railway Zone headquarters in Visakhapatnam with a budget of Rs.106 crore. Railway Board has also issued orders assigning the construction work of the new Visakhapatnam Railway Zone headquarters to East Coast Zone officials after getting designs sanctioned.

However, delay of handing over 52 acres of land by the State Government for the construction of the headquarters of the proposed Visakhapatnam Railway Zone headquarters in Mudisarlova area of Visakhapatnam in lieu of the railway land taken by the State Government as a compensatory measure has inordinately delayed operationalization of the Visakhapatnam Railway Zone.

I appeal to the Ministry of Railways to immediately get pending land issues sorted out and begin construction of the headquarters of the South Coast Railway Zone in the next two months and operationalize the South Coast Railway Zone with headquarters in Visakhapatnam at the earliest.

DR. FAUZIA KHAN (Maharashtra): Sir, I associate myself with the Special Mention made by the hon. Member.

SHRI ABIR RANJAN BISWAS (West Bengal): Sir, I too associate myself with the Special Mention made by the hon. Member.

REGARDING THE PERFORMANCE OF DUTIES OF A PARLIAMENTARIAN

MR. CHAIRMAN: Dr. John Brittas, 'Concern over fiscal stability of States'.

DR. JOHN BRITTAS (Kerala): I did not get the script, Sir. Thank you very much but I have not been given the script. If you can give me, I would speak or I can speak extempore.

MR. CHAIRMAN: No. That may be too dangerous. ...*(Interruptions)*... It may be far more serious than the issue you seek to address. We need stability here.

DR. JOHN BRITTAS: Sir, I would be speaking about the fiscal stability of Kerala.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You see, I make a very fervent appeal to everyone that Members of the Upper House have to show a conduct which is gladly emulated by others. It was

in that perspective I made an appeal that everyone should go through the Report of the Committee of Privileges with respect to Shri Raghav Chadha. I had the occasion to see the young man. There should have been remorse. There should have been reflection. It was a day on which he was held guilty on both the counts by a very detailed Report. The suspension had not come to an end. The sentence was limited to this day. So, here was a case where a Member of this House suffered being held guilty and punished. I would urge everyone to live up to the high expectations. Today has been a good day.

DR. JOHN BRITTAS: Sir, I am the most obedient Member. You know it.

MR. CHAIRMAN: If I were to refer this to a parliamentary committee, then, perhaps, you will know more about it.

DR. JOHN BRITTAS: Sir, I know that I uphold... *...(Interruptions)...* The topic which I have given to you, the notice is with regard to the fiscal stability of Kerala. Since it hasn't been given to me by the Secretariat...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record. It is because Special Mention has to be as per text approved. Avail your opportunity next time, I will be a little more indulgent. I will be a little more indulgent.

DR. JOHN BRITTAS: Sir, I am waiting for the text.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Okay. Hon. Members, ethics is so vital for performance of duties of a parliamentarian. Take your seat.

DR. JOHN BRITTAS: Yes, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN: It was in 90s that for the first time, Rajya Sabha had the benefit of an Ethics Committee. The first Ethics Committee was headed by a man of great experience, Shri S.B. Chavan. He rendered that report and in the report that was presented to this House on December 8, 1999, a code of conduct was laid down for us. I will make reference only to two elements. "Members must not do anything that brings disrepute to the Parliament and affects their credibility. Members are expected to maintain high standards of morality, dignity, decency and values in public life." I strongly commend the First Report of the Ethics Committee which is very thorough

and detailed, imparted by a Committee headed by a very experienced man who had been Chief Minister of a State and who had held high Cabinet positions, Shri S.B. Chavan.

The House stands adjourned to meet at 11.00 a.m. on Tuesday, the 5th December, 2023.

The House then adjourned at twenty-two minutes past five of the clock till eleven of the clock on Tuesday, the 5th December, 2023.