

Regarding need for construction of a new railway line from Kurnool to Mantralayam in Andhra Pradesh-Laid

SHRI BASTIPATI NAGARAJU (KURNOOL): I rise to draw the attention of the Government to the urgent need for construction of a new railway line from Kurnool to Mantralayam in Andhra Pradesh, to meet the growing demand of pilgrims visiting the sacred shrine of Lord Sri Guru Raghavendra Swamy at Mantralayam. Mantralayam is among the most revered pilgrimage centres in South India, attracting lakhs of devotees from across 5 southern states throughout the year. The rush increases sharply during festivals, weekends and special occasions. However, despite its spiritual and tourism significance, direct and convenient rail connectivity to Mantralayam from key districts remains limited, causing hardship especially to senior citizens, women and families travelling with children. The proposed Kurnool-Mantralayam rail link will provide a direct, safe and time-saving travel option, reduce dependence on overcrowded road transport, and improve access for devotees from Rayalaseema and surrounding regions. This project will also promote religious tourism, generate local employment, support small businesses and strengthen the regional economy, while reducing road congestion and enhancing passenger safety. I therefore request the Hon^{ble} Minister for Railways to sanction and expedite this railway line with adequate funding and early completion.