

Printing of Postal Stationery

1927. SHRI HARISH NARAYAN PRABHU ZANTYE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken a decision for privatisation of activities under the Postal Department such as printing of postal stationery etc;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps taken to improve the efficiency of postal service; and

(d) the details of restructuring of postal organisation under consideration and present status regarding the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) Yes, Sir. There is the decision to print postal stationery in Security Presses in the private sector, besides the Govt. security presses.

(b) Government Security Presses have not been able to meet the entire requirements and, therefore, this has become necessary. Contractual processes for the purpose are in progress.

(c) Steps taken to improve the efficiency of postal services include modernising of Post Office operations with technology inputs, changes in the mail processing system, prioritization of mail according to transmission lines, stepped-up monitoring of quality of services and introduction of premium services.

(d) A proposal for changes in the management structure by way of updating it for the present and future requirements is before the Department.

STD/PCOs

1928. DR. SUDHIR RAY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the terms and conditions for the eligibility for grant of STD/PCOs in New Delhi;

(b) whether the women and OBCs are entitled to any kind of priorities; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) The required information is given in the enclosed statement.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Handicapped including blind persons, SC/ST applicants, Ex-servicemen, War widows, retired employees of Department of Telecom or their dependents, Freedom Fighters or their dependents and Charitable Institutions/Hospitals have only been included in the preferential category of applicants for allotment of STD/ISD PCOs after taking into account all the factors.

Statement**I. GENERAL****1. Eligibility**

Only educated unemployed persons are eligible to apply for allotment of STD PCOs. They should produce an unemployment certificate from their local MPs/MLAs/Revenue authorities of the rank of Tehsildar and above/employment officer/Chairman or Member of Zilla Parishad/Panchayat or Village Pradhan or Secretaries of recognised Social Organisations like Rotary Club/Lions Club etc. who have jurisdiction over the locality where the applicant resides. The educational qualifications for the applicants are:—

i) for rural areas: 8th or middle school pass and above

ii) for urban areas: atleast matriculate or High School and above.

Application is to be submitted in the prescribed performa enclosing the unemployment certificate and agreeing to the terms and conditions prescribed by the Department of Telecom., for the operation of STD PCOs.

2. Selection of bonafide persons

A committee with a composition as given below will select the applicants for allotment of STD PCOs after proper scrutiny and verification of bonafides. As a check against possible frauds, photocopy of the unemployment certificate may be sent by registered letter to the issuing authority with a covering letter requesting for getting it verified. The Committee will allot the available number of PCOs giving preference to following categories of persons;

(a) Handicapped including blind persons.

(b) SC/ST applicants.

(c) Ex-servicemen/War Widows.

(d) Retired DOT employees or their dependents.

(e) Freedom Fighters or their dependants.

(f) Charitable Institutions/Hospitals. The committee will be fully authorised to allot STD PCOs and also decided the location of the new PCOs.

Composition of committee

(a) The committee for allotment of the new STD payphones would consist as under:

i) Head of S.S.A Chairman

ii) An officer from the Finance & Accounts Wing of the Department working under SSA Head such as AO/CAO etc. Members.

iii) Three Non-official members would be nominated by the Ministry for a tenure period of two years.

3. Procedure of allotment:—

The committee will meet atleast once every month depending on the amount of work relating to allotment of STD PCO to scrutinise and select the applications from the eligible persons for STD PCO allotment.