

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1398
ANSWERED ON:26.02.2003
ALLOTMENT OF PCOS IN WEST BENGAL
SANAT KUMAR MANDAL

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of PCOs allotted in West Bengal during the last three years;
- (b) whether the Government have formulated any new guidelines for the allotment of PCOs;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether priority is being given to the unemployed youths, women and disabled persons in the allotment of PCOs; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SRI MATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN)

- (a) Sir, 30,547 PCOs were allotted in West Bengal during the last three years.
- (b) to (e): Sir, as per the existing policy, PCOs are allotted to all the eligible applicants on first come first served basis as per their registration subject to technical feasibility. Wherever there is waiting list, priority in allotment of STD/ISD PCOs is given to the war-widows/dependants, SC/ST, handicapped persons and ex-servicemen. No priority for unemployed youths is considered necessary as the PCOs are available on demand in most of the areas.