

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:767
ANSWERED ON:26.07.2001
TELECOM SERVICES BY RAILWAYS
CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

:

- (a) whether the Government have allowed the Railways to operate a wide variety of telecom services on a nation wide basis;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the steps taken by the Railways in this regard as on date; and
- (d) the steps proposed to be taken by the Railways to ensure that the proposed telecom services would in no way affect the working of the rail traffic?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) After Cabinet approval, Railways have formed a corporation called RailTel Corporation of India Limited (RCIL). This Corporation will lay optic fibre cable along the railway track progressively to establish a nationwide optic fibre cable based telecom network to fulfil Railways' communication needs and also commercially exploit surplus telecom capacity.

(c) Report of the consultant appointed by Ministry of Railways, formulating the business plan for the corporation has been accepted. Based on the report and as per directions given by Cabinet, a Detailed Project Report (DPR) was prepared and got approved by the Expanded Railway Board. Action has been initiated for implementing various provisions in the DPR for creation of a nationwide optical fibre cable (OFC) based broadband network and induction of joint venture partner(s) initially considering Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) under Department of Telecom (DOT) and Ministry of Railways.

(d) The Corporation (RCIL) will in fact help in speedily modernising and further augmenting Railways' telecommunication system.