

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4286
ANSWERED ON:20.04.2000
POSSESSION OF EXTRA OPTIC FIBRE CABLE
SUBODH MOHITE

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

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- (a) whether the Railways have possessed extra unutilised optic fibre cable lines;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Railways propose to release these cable lines to private parties to provide voice and data communication;
- (d) if so, the steps taken in this regard; and
- (e) the revenue expected to be generated by leasing these lines?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH)

(a) & (b) Yes Sir. Railways possess spare Fibres in some sections where Optical Fibre Cable (OFC) has been laid for meeting Railways' communication requirements. Starting from 1989, Railways have laid 8, 10, 18 and 24 fibre OFC in different sections. Presently, as a matter of policy, Railways are laying only 24 Fibre OFC. Of the fibres available, Railways are utilising 4 fibres to meet their present requirement.

(c) & (d) Yes Sir. Zonal Railways have been advised to lease/rent the Railways' excess/spare communication capacity for data communication. Leasing of voice channels will start after issue of Notification regarding National Long Distance Communication Policy.

(e) Railways have recently started leasing spare telecom capacity. So far telecom channels on Mumbai-Andheri, Mumbai-Ahmedabad and Bhusawal-Nandgaon sections have been leased out giving an annual revenue of Rs. 84 lakhs to Railways. This will increase as and when further spare capacity gets leased out.