

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:664
ANSWERED ON:08.05.2003
ALLOTMENT OF STD/ISD/PCO BOOTHS AT RAILWAY STATIONS
AJAY CHAKRABORTY

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government have framed a new policy for allotment of STD/ISD/PCO booths at railway stations/platforms;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the percentage of commission being fixed for recovery from the STD/ISD/PCO booths to be allotted through tendering system; and
- (d) the steps being taken for the protection of the existing STD/ISD/PCO booth holders belonging to handicapped, scheduled castes/tribes etc. who are solely dependent on it for their livelihood?

Answer

MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR)

(a) to (d): A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) to (d) OF STARRED QUESTION NO.664 BY SHRI AJAY CHAKRAB AND SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA TO BE ANSWERED IN LOK SABHA ON 08.05.2003 REGARDING ALLOTMENT OF STD/ISD/PCO BOOTHS AT RAILWAY STATIONS

(a)&(b): Policy guidelines have been issued regulating allotment of space for setting up of STD/ISD/PCO Booths at railway stations from time to time. The last policy guidelines on this subject were issued in April/May, 2002. Detailed guidelines for fresh allotment of STD/ISD/PCO Booths at railway stations inter alia include scale and number of booths depending upon category of stations, eligibility criteria, educational qualifications, reservations in allotment for various categories of persons, procedure for selection, license fees and other charges to be realized, renewal of the existing contract, etc.

(c): As per the policy in force, tendering system is to be adopted only at 'A', 'B' & 'C' category of stations. The percentage of commission shall be the commission payable as per bid subject to a minimum of 10% of the commission payable to the booth operators by the telecom service provide i.e., MTNL etc.

(d): Instructions have been issued to the Zonal Railways to continue the licences of the existing STD/ISD/PCO booth holders upto 27.4.2005, if considered desirable and subject to the fulfillment of the prescribed conditions as stipulated in policy guidelines. Even after this date, the persons belonging to under-privileged groups, such as, SCs/STs, OBCs, physically handicapped, women including war widows and railway employees' widow for whom a separate quota has been fixed, can apply in the open selection as and when the applications are called for.