

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:236
ANSWERED ON:24.11.2005
PCO BOOTHS AT PALAM AIRPORT
Paswan Shri Virchandra

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Airports Authority of India (AAI) has closed down PCO booths manned by physically handicapped persons for the last 19 years at Palam Airport;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether any alternative site has been provided to them;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Since the individuals including handicapped persons were operating PCO booths inside and outside terminal building at Indira Gandhi International Airport were involved in overcharging and fleecing the passengers and were operating the facility without any valid licence agreement and were also involved in litigation with Airports Authority of India (AAI), AAI brought out following changes in the policy for providing improved communication facility at the airports.

(i) The facility inside the terminal building is to be operated directly through basic telephone service providers authorised by Government, if necessary, by way of limited tenders.

(ii) The facility outside terminal building is to be provided after calling open tenders amongst individual falling under the category of Scheduled Caste/ Scheduled Tribe/ Handicapped/ War Widows, who are having telephone lines in their own name.

(c),(d)&(e):- No alternative site has been provided.