

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3689

ANSWERED ON:23.12.2004

CYBER CAFES AND TELECOM CENTRES AT RAILWAY STATIONS

Maadam Shri Vikrambhai Arjanbhai

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government propose to provide cyber cafÃ© and telecom centres at railway stations particularly at all Railway stations of Western Railway;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, alongwith name of stations selected for providing such facilities; and
- (c) the time by which the said facilities are likely to be provided at all the railway stations?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R.VELU)

(a): No, Sir. All stations are not planned for providing cyber cafÃ© and telecom centres. Ministry of Railways have authorized RailTel to set up cyber cafes, having telecom facilities such as Internet, Email, Audio/Video chatting, Internet telephony etc, on franchisee basis at important stations only in phased manner. RailTel plans to provide 51 such cafes in phase-I out of total 279 cafes planned on Indian Railways which include 7 cyber cafes in phase-I out of 22 cyber cafes planned on Western Railway.

(b): These cafes will be provided on franchisee basis and on an average, a cyber cafÃ© will cost around Rs. 6 to 7 lakh. However, the expenditure on this account will be met by the franchisee. Railway would provide space/land area only at Railway Stations with Optical Fibre Cable (OFC) Connectivity. Names of the stations of Western Railway which are under consideration in phase-I are: Churchgate, Vadodara, Mumbai Central, Ahmedbad, Dadar, Borivili and Bandra.

(c): Phase-I is likely to be completed in this financial year and phase-II will follow thereafter.