

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:744
ANSWERED ON:08.08.2013
STD PCO BOOTHS
Owaisi Shri Asaduddin

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Railways propose to reserve STD/PCO booths for differently abled persons at railway stations;
- (b) if so, the number of requests pending with the Railways for such booths from such persons;
- (c) whether some of the persons have requested the Railways for other means of livelihood at railway stations in place of STD/ISD/PCO booths; and
- (d) if so, the steps taken or being taken by the Railways in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY)

(a) & (b): Twenty five percent of the STD/ISD/PCO booths at stations over Indian Railways are already reserved for differently-abled persons. The allotment of the STD/PCO booths at stations is done through a transparent open-tender/screening committee process after issuing notifications in the Press. The applications received in response to the press notifications are decided accordingly.

(c) & (d): Yes, Madam. In order to enhance the viability of STD/PCO booths, the existing STD /PCO booth holders have been permitted to sell mobile phone recharge coupons, new SIM cards (new connections), mobile phones and related accessories on payment of flat additional license fee for each additional item.