

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:734
ANSWERED ON:27.11.2014
PCO BOOTHS AT STATIONS
Singh Shri Rakesh

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the PCO facility at railway stations has been discontinued across the country and if so, the details thereof along with the reasons therefor;
- (b) whether most of these booths were being run by the differently-abled persons;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether there is a scheme to sell mobile recharge vouchers in place of these PCO booths; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof including the criteria laid down for the purpose particularly with regard to differently-abled persons?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA)

(a): No, Madam.

(b) & (c): Do not arise. However, under the policy guidelines for operation of STD/PCO booths at stations, 25% of the booths are reserved for the physically handicapped persons.

(d) & (e): Instructions exist for provision of Local/STD/ISD call facility, FAX facility and Internet facility in STD/PCO Booths. Besides, the existing PCO Booth holders have also been permitted to sell mobile recharge coupons on payment of certain additional license fee. Further, they have also been permitted to sell SIM Cards (new connection) and mobile phones & related accessories at railway stations on payment of additional license fee for each additional item as per category of station.