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Title: Need to increase the compensation amount payable to handicapped persons operating PCOs.

*SHRI P. MOHAN (MADURAI): Hon. Speaker Sir, I would like to bring to the notice of this august House the need to increase correspondingly the commission given to the handicapped people operating the PCOs of the BSNL telephones. In the beginning from 1981 handicapped people were given priority in being allotted with PCO booths. Now there are also other operators operating such booths. Later on one rupee coin box PCOs were introduced and the booth operators were paid

*Translation of the speech originally delivered in Tamil.

40 paise as commission for every one rupee. Now the number of coins used in coin box PCOs is sought to be increased from single one rupee coin to two one rupee coins. But it has also been announced that the commission will be increased only by 10 paise. They were paid 40 paise for every one rupee but now they will be paid only 50 paise for Rs 2 used every time. Instead of getting 80 paise they will be getting only 50 paise. There must be corresponding increase in the commission paid to these handicapped and other operators who have no other means of income. Considering price rise on every other commodity, I urge upon the Telecom Ministry to increase the commission paid to PCO operators especially the handicapped persons. This is necessary in the light of the fact that most of the handicapped people are not getting the benefit of 3% reservation in jobs both in Central and State Governments.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: This is very unfortunate. If you do not maintain order in the House, I will adjourn the House.

...(Interruptions)