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Title : Need to permit differently-abled persons running STD/PCO

booth allotted by Railways to sell additional miscellaneous items.

SHRI PRABODH PANDA (MIDNAPORE): The Indian Railways, over the years, had allotted STD/PCO Booths to differently-abled persons on humanitarian ground so that the persons are able to pull their livelihood in a respectable manner with the help of the Railways.

But with the advent of new technology and development and easy affordability of Mobile phones, the business of STD/PCO booth has gone down heavily, so much so that these persons finding it difficult even to pay their respective licence fees to Railways. These persons are in very difficult condition to carry on their family responsibilities. They are practically on the verge of starving.

Therefore, in view of the above, I would like to urge the Hon'ble Railway Minister to grant these hapless STD/PCO booth operators permission to sell some additional items like packed snacks, biscuits, packaged drinking water from their respective booths. Here, I would also like to mention that permissions to sell additional items have already been given to Miscellaneous Article Contractors.

Therefore, I once again urge the Railway Minister to take immediate action on the subject and save these poor men.