

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:891
ANSWERED ON:06.03.2002
PCO OPERATORS
VINAY KUMAR SORAKE

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether with the slashing of STD tariff and introduction of Virtual Calling Card system the business of PCOs has gone down steeply;
- (b) if so, whether the Government are aware that most of the PCO operators take out a living solely on the commission earned from PCO operations;
- (c) whether the Federation of PCO Operators in India has represented for more commission on calls put through PCOs; and
- (d) if so, the Government's reaction thereto?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SIKDAR)

- (a) & (b) : Sir, the introduction of Virtual Calling Card and the reduction in the STD tariff has been done with a view to benefit the Public at large and to broaden the user base. However, the business of PCOs has not gone down steeply. No guarantee is given to PCO operators for earning or income from operation of PCO services.
- (c) & (d): Some representations have been received from the PCO franchisees and their Associations, etc. to increase the rate of commission. Presently there is no proposal to increase the existing rate of commission.