GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1634
ANSWERED ON:28.11.2002
NATIONAL TELECOM NETWORK OF RAILWAYS
BODAKUNTI VENKATESHWARLU

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways propose to create a national telecom and multimedia network to provide a platform for communications revolution specially in rural areas;

(b) whether Railways also plan to provide kiosks and STD/ISD booths on railway platforms;

(c) whether there is any proposal to provide mobile telephone facilities in running train; and

(d) if so, the details in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA)

(a): Yes, Sir. Ministry of Railways has set up RailTel Corporation of India Ltd. (RailTel), a Public Sector Undertaking under the administrative control of the Ministry of Railways to create a nationwide telecom and multi-media network by utilising Railways' optical fibre assets and right-of-way. RailTel will initially connect 4 major Metros namely Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai & Kolkata and 4 mini Metros namely Ahmedabad, Pune, Bangalore and Hyderabad and also provide bandwidth at stations enroute which can be used for providing communication in rural areas.

(b): Detailed guidelines for provision of STD/ISD/PCO/FAX/Internet booths at Railway premises have been issued to Zonal Railways. Besides, RailTel also plans to provide Internet/STD/ISD Kiosks on Railway platforms. Following 3 pilot sections have been identified for providing kiosks by RailTail:-

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i)    Ludhiana-Amritsar
ii)   Ahmedabad-Vadodara
iii)  Chennai-Chengalpattu
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(c) & (d): At present, Mobile Telephone facilities are being provided based on the need as well as availability of service in the area where the train is running. RailTel, alongwith the Cellular Service Providers, is examining the feasibility to utilise its optic fibre infrastructure to extend cellular services along the Railway track, which will enable Railway passengers to use the mobile services in the running train.