

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:345
ANSWERED ON:23.07.2003
SLASHING OF STD/ISD RATES
DAGGUBATI RAMANAIDU

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

- (a) whether slashing of STD and ISD rates have resulted in sharp drop in the daily earning of PCO owners; and
- (b) if so, the measures proposed to help PCO owners to enhance their income?

Answer

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

(a) PCO owners earnings in respect of STD and ISD calls come from commission payable on call charges and service charges on each STD/ISD call. Slashing of STD/ISD rates has resulted in some drop in earnings on commission payable on call charges only.

(b) Presently, there is no proposal to increase the commission to PCO owners. However, with reduction in rates, the number of calls and call duration will increase, thereby increasing their earnings of commission and service charges. Following additional facilities have been extended to PCO owners from time to time to enhance their earnings:-

- (i) Licence fee on FAX machines has been removed.
- (ii) Conference facility on STD PCOs has been allowed.
- (iii) Interest is being given on the security deposit made by PCO franchisees to run the PCOs.
- (iv) Additional STD PCOs in the same premises have been allowed.
- (v) PCO franchisee is also allotted a Local Coin Collecting Box (CCB)PCO if he so desires.
- (vi) Sale of Virtual Calling Card (VCC) by the PCO franchisees has been permitted.