

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:585
ANSWERED ON:24.07.2003
INTERNET CAFES IN RAILWAY STATIONS
CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH;PRABODH PANDA

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Railways has decided to open 200 Internet Cafes in major Railway Stations;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Railtel had commissioned more than 20,564 km of OFC;
- (d) whether the Railtel would offer additional bandwidth available on its OFC network for commercial exploitations as well as providing connectivity to areas near the Railway Stations; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

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

(a) & (b): RailTel Corporation of India Limited (RailTel), a Public Sector Undertaking under Ministry of Railways, has presently set up an Internet cafe at New Delhi Station on trial basis. Based on the experience gained, further action would be taken in the matter.

(c): Railways and RailTel together have laid 20,876 route KMs of OpticFibre Cable (OFC) as on June 30, 2003. Out of this 13,503 route Kms of OFC has been commissioned.

(d)&(e): Yes, Sir. RailTel is already in the business of offering the spare bandwidth available in its OFC network and digital microwave links to Telecom Service Providers. RailTel is also in a position to offer the spare bandwidth available at stations to Basic Service Providers, Cellular Service Providers and Internet Service Providers which may enable them to provide various types of telecom services in areas near the Railway stations.