

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
RAILWAYS  
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:347  
ANSWERED ON:19.08.2004  
STD/ISD/PCO BOOTHS AT RAILWAY STATIONS PLATFORMS  
Patil Shri Shrinivas Dadasaheb

**Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the Government is aware that new STD/ISD/PCO booths at Railway Stations/Platforms are not allotted owing to some legal hitch;
- (b) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this regard;
- (c) whether the passengers are facing inconvenience due to non-availability of sufficient booths at Railway stations/platforms;
- (d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to provide more booths;
- (e) whether the Government is considering setting up of STD booths in other trains on the lines of such facility already being provided in Rajdhani Trains;
- (f) whether the cost of calls made from STD booths of Rajdhani Express is very high; and (g) if so, the steps taken by the Government to reduce the cost?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI LALU PRASAD)

(a) to (g): A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) to (g) OF STARRED QUESTION NO. 347 BY SHRI SHRINWAS PATIL TO BE ANSWERED IN LOK SABHA ON 19.08.2004 REGARDING STD/ISD/PCO BOOTHS AT RAILWAY STATIONS/ PLATFORMS.

(a): No, Sir.

(b): Does not arise.

(c) & (d): With a view to provide better telecom facilities to passengers, the policy on allotment of Subscriber Trunk Dialing(STD)/International Subscriber Dialing(ISD)/Public Call Office(PCO) booths has been rationalized and Zonal Railways have been directed to initiate action to provide additional booths at more and more stations progressively.

(e): No, Sir.

(f) & (g): The Telephone facility initially provided in Rajdhani Express trains was based on INMARSAT Satellite telephones. This facility was provided through equipment owned and maintained by M/s. Videsh Sanchar Nigam Limited. The call charges for the services were fixed by M/s. Videsh Sanchar Nigam Limited and were relatively on the higher side as the service was routed through INMARSAT satellite.

With proliferation of public cellular phone services in the country, usage of the satellite phones provided in Rajdhani Express Trains declined considerably and the services have since been discontinued.