

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4426
ANSWERED ON:26.08.2004
CONTROL OF BOOKSTALLS CONTRACT
Chakraborty Shri Ajay

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the contract of bookstalls held by A.H. Wheeler and Co. and Higginbothams Limited and their renewal as well as fixing of their licence fee etc. is centrally controlled by the Railway Board ;
- (b) whether all the other contract of bookstalls including those of philanthropic and social institutions are centrally controlled by the Zonal Railways; and
- (c) if so, the detailed reasons for adopting two types of procedure thereof ?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU)

(a) and (b) : Yes, Sir.

(c): M/s A.H. Wheeler & Co. and M/s Higginbothams Ltd. are the two major bookstall contractors of Indian Railways who are operating their bookstalls at majority of railway stations spread over All Indian Railways. To have a uniform control over these two major bookstall contracts, a decision has been taken in the Bookstalls policy that allotment of bookstall, fixation of licence fee and their subsequent renewal of M/s A.H. Wheeler & Co. and M/s Higginbothams Ltd. will be done centrally by the Railway Board. Allotment of bookstalls on application to philanthropic, social organisations, un-employed graduate, weaker section etc. are entrusted to the concerned General Manager of the zonal railways.