

**Bill No. I of 2013**

THE COMPULSORY REGISTRATION OF CALLERS USING  
PUBLIC TELEPHONE BOOTHS BILL, 2013

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BILL

*to provide for compulsory registration of callers using public telephone booths for making calls in the interest of national security and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.*

BE it enacted by Parliament in the Sixty-fourth Year of the Republic of India as follows:—

**1.** (1) This Act may be called the Compulsory Registration of Callers using Public Telephone Booths Act, 2013.

Short title,  
extent and  
commencement.

(2) It extends to the whole of India.

5 (3) It shall come into force at once.

**2.** In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires,—

Definitions.

(a) "Public Call Office (PCO)" means a telephone facility located in a public place through manned or coin operated payphone;

(b) "prescribed" means prescribed by rules made under this Act.

(c) words and expressions used but not defined in this Act but defined in the Indian Penal Code, 1860, the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885 and the Information Technology Act, 2000 shall have the same meaning as is respectively assigned to them in those Acts. 45 of 1860.  
13 of 1885.  
21 of 2000.

Registration of callers using PCOs.

**3. (1)** It shall be the duty of every PCO owner or his representative to obtain a copy of a valid identity proof from every caller using their services and to maintain a record of callers and numbers called upon by them in such manner as may be prescribed. 5

*Explanation.*—For the purpose of this section, the expression "valid identity proof" includes—

(i) valid passport; or 10

(ii) voter identity card; or

(iii) any photo identify card issued by the State Governments or the Central Government or State or Public Sector Undertakings or Banks.

(2) Every owner of a PCO or the service provider as the case may be shall depute a person to maintain record of callers using coin operated payphone in such manner as may be prescribed. 15

(3) Every owner or his representative or the service provider of a PCO shall furnish the records of the callers, as mentioned in sub-sections (1) and (2) of section 3, to Government security or intelligence agencies or the police department on demand.

Penalty.

**4.** Any person who contravenes the provisions of section 3 of this Act shall be punished with fine which may extend to rupees ten thousand for the first violation and upto rupees twenty thousand for second and subsequent violation. 20

Overriding effect of the Act.

**5.** The provisions of this Act shall have effect notwithstanding anything inconsistent therewith contained in any other law, for the time being in force regulating public call office.

Act not to be in derogation of any other law.

**6.** The provisions of this Act shall be in addition to and not in derogation of any other law for the time being in force. 25

Power to make rules.

**7.** The Central Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, make rules for carrying out the purposes of this Act.

#### STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

There has been a sharp increase in number of fake or hoax calls made from Public Call Office (PCO) for spreading false information related to militancy and for threatening, abusing and sexual harassment, etc. It is a very serious security concern for our nation. This is adversely affecting the activities of police force and disrupting public services.

Several people call from PCOs, some, however, misuse the service for making false or hoax calls. When such fake calls are made from PCOs, police swings in action to locate such PCOs, but it takes some time for them to locate and reach there and anti-social elements find enough time to escape from the site of PCO, leaving police forces helpless for want of callers' details.

In order to curb false or hoax calls, it is felt that it should be made compulsory for all PCO owners to maintain a record of callers with sufficient proof of identification along with the details of number called.

Hence this Bill.

PARSHOTTAM KHODABHAI RUPALA

MEMORANDUM REGARDING DELEGATED LEGISLATION

Clause 7 of the Bill empowers the Central Government to make rules for carrying out the purposes of the Bill. As the rules will relate to matters of details only, the delegation of legislative power is of a normal character.

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*(Shri Parshottam Khodabhai Rupala, M.P.)*