

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS**

LOK SABHA

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1730
TO BE ANSWERED ON 13.02.2019**

MOBILE CONNECTIONS TO RAILTEL

1730. SHRI J. J. T. NATTERJEE:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that some telecom operators have been successfully providing mobile phone connections to RailTel through Closed User Group (CUG) across the country for the last six years and if so, the details thereof;**
- (b) whether it is also a fact that RailTel, on the instructions of the Railway Board have decided to discontinue the services of CUG and award the same to some new telecom operators;**
- (c) if so, the complete details and the reasons thereof for showing favours to new incumbent with the names of new telecom operators; and**
- (d) the details of the procedure adopted by RailTel for switching to new telephone provider with the names of the telecom service providers which participated in the tender process?**

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS
(SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN)**

(a): Yes, Madam. Mobile phone services for Indian Railways subscribers through Closed User Group (CUG) were being provided by the Telecom Service Provider Airtel.

(b): Yes, Madam. RailTel Corporation of India Limited (RCIL) a Public Sector Undertaking (PSU) under Ministry of Railways have selected new Telecom Service Provider for mobile CUG services on expiry of previous contract with Airtel on 31st December, 2018.

(c) & (d): A new Telecom Service Provider by has now been awarded the CUG contract by Indian Railways.

Total 04 nos. Telecom service providers had participated in the open tender invited by RailTel. Name of participants firms in the tender are given below:-

- 1. Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited.**
- 2. Bharti Airtel Limited.**
- 3. Vodafone Idea Limited.**
- 4. Reliance Jio Infocomm Limited.**

M/s. Reliance Jio has been selected through this open tendering process.
