

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5960
ANSWERED ON:04.05.2005
CONDITION OF PCOs IN KARNATAKA
Reddy Shri Karunakara G.

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) the total number of public call offices functioning in Karnataka, at present, District-wise;
- (b) the number out of them lying closed as on date;
- (c) whether it is a fact that a large number of such PCOs are struggling hard for survival due to introduction of new type of multi-media kiosks; and
- (d) if so, the remedial steps taken by the Union Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD)

- (a) Sir, a total of 2,29,739 Local and STD/ISD public call offices are functioning in Karnataka as on 31.3.2005. District- wise details are given in the Annexure.
- (b) Nil, as no PCO which is functioning is closed.
- (c) No, Sir.
- (d) Does not arise in view of (c) above. However, following steps are taken to improve the earnings of PCO franchisees:
- (i) STD/ISD PCO franchisees have been given permission to sell India Telecom Card(ITC) and Postal Items and earn commission.
- (ii) Additional STD/ISD/Local PCO line at the same premises is allotted if desired by the franchisee.
- (iii) Franchisees are allowed to upgrade their PCOs into IT Kiosks.

ANNEXURE

District-wise details of STD/ISD PCOs functioning in Karnataka

Sl. No.	Name of the District	Total number of PCOs (Local and STD/ISD) functioning as on 31.3.2005
1	Bangalore	1,01,520
2	Belgaum	11,058
3	Bellary	3,864
4	Bidar	2,410
5	Bijapur	7,174
6	Chickmagalur	3,640
7	Dakshina Kannada	17,840
8	Davangere	8,788
9	Gulbarga	7,361
10	Hassan	7,486
11	Hubli	12,604
12	Madikeri	2,330
13	Kolar	3,620
14	Mandya	6,249
15	Mysore	12,780
16	Raichur	3,933
17	Shimoga	7,133
18	Tumkur	5,504

19 Uttara Kannada
Total

4,445
2,29,739