

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1599
ANSWERED ON:21.07.2014
PUBLIC TELEPHONE BOOTHS
Neta Shri Ashok Mahadeorao

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

- (a) the total number of public telephone booths sets up in the country including in Gadchiroli- Chimur Parliamentary Constituency and other tribal regions of Maharashtra at present State-wise;
- (b) the total number of booths which are not functioning properly, State-wise;
- (c) the total number of booths that have been closed during the last three years and the current year along with the reasons therefor; and
- (d) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to ensure the proper functioning of the telephone booths including those set up at railway stations and other public places?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY & LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD)

(a) The data of Public Telephone Booths [Public Call Offices (PCOs)] is maintained circle-wise and not State-wise by Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL)/ Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL). The number of PCOs [excluding Village Public Telephones (VPTs)] working as on 31.05.2014 is given in Annexure-I.

BSNL and MTNL do not maintain data of PCOs tribal-region wise. However, the number of PCOs (excluding VPTs) working in various Secondary Switching Areas (SSAs) of Maharashtra Circle (including Gadchiroli-Chimur) as on 31.05.2014 is given in Annexure-II.

(b) PCOs are, normally, functioning satisfactorily.

(c) Some PCOs have been surrendered due to higher mobile penetration and decline in income of the franchisees. The details of PCOs disconnected during the last three years and the current year (till 31.05.2014) are available in Annexure-I.

(d) The steps taken by BSNL/MTNL for proper and satisfactory functioning of PCOs (including those set up at Railways Stations and other public places) are:-

- i. The steps taken by BSNL/MTNL for proper and satisfactory functioning of PCOs (including those set up at Railways Stations and other public places) are:- Upgradation/rehabilitation of telephone lines
- ii. Shifting of Distribution Points (DPs) near to PCOs and making drop wire joint free.
- iii. Early repair of cable in case. of cable fault,
- iv. Also sufficient spares are maintained in stock to keep PCOs in order,
- v. Creation of pole less network (to reduce drop wire fault),
- vi. Periodic check up, etc.