

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
COMMUNICATIONS  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3437  
ANSWERED ON:17.04.2000  
PCO IN TAMIL NADU  
SUDARSANA E.M. NATCHIAPPAN

**Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:**

- (a) the number of public telephone booths working in Tamil Nadu as on date;
- (b) whether these booths are not functioning properly and satisfactorily;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) the number of public telephone booths closed in the State during the last three years;
- (e) the loss suffered on this account; and
- (f) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government for smooth functioning of public telephone booths in the state particularly in Sivganga and Ramnad districts?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE FOR COMMUNICATIONS  
(SH.TAPAN SIKDAR)

- (a) : Sir, the number of public telephone booths working in Tamilnadu as on 29-2-2000 are 65154.
- (b) & (c) : Sir, the PCOs are working satisfactorily.
- (d) : The PCOs are mostly closed due to non-payment of dues/violation of terms and conditions and in some cases on franchisees request. These are reconnected on receipt of payment/ appeal for restoration depending on merits of the case. During last three years, 653 PCOs have been closed.
- (e) : No loss is suffered due to these disconnections as the users have option to use other PCOs.
- (f) : Following steps have been taken/proposed to be taken for smooth functioning of PCOs:
  - (i) Whenever a complaint is received from PCO, immediate action is taken to attend to complaint.
  - (ii) Senior officers and Vigilance officers also make surprise checks to ensure that PCOs are functioning properly.
  - (iii) Transmission media have been upgraded for smooth functioning of PCOs. In Sivganga and Ramnad district transmission media has been upgraded to the extent of 72% to facilitate satisfactory working of PCOs. The remaining 28% of media is proposed to be upgraded during the current financial year.