

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3242
ANSWERED ON:04.02.2004
PUBLIC TELEPHONE BOOTHS IN BIHAR
RAJO SINGH

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

- (a) the number of public telephone booths installed in rural areas of Bihar during the Ninth Five Year Plan period;
- (b) the target fixed therefor during the Tenth Five Year Plan;
- (c) whether the number of public telephone booths installed in the scheduled districts is far less than those installed in the developed districts of the State;
- (d) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the steps taken to do away with this regional imbalance during the Tenth Five Year Plan?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI , PRADHAN)

- (a) Sir, 10141 PCOs have been installed in rural areas of Bihar during the Ninth Five Year Plan period.
- (b) to (e): As per the existing policy of BSNL, PCOs are allotted liberally to all applicants above 18 years of age as per their registration subject to technical feasibility. Hence no target has been fixed for installation of PCOs for the Tenth Five Year Plan. The number of PCOs to be installed during the said period depends on the demand.No discrimination is made in installation of PCOs between the scheduled districts and developed districts.