

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1687
ANSWERED ON:08.03.2010
PROVISION OF TELEPHONE BOOTHS
Maadam Shri Vikrambhai Arjanbhai

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

(a) whether the Government has provided STD, PCO and ISD telephone booths to the poor, widows and handicapped persons in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof during the last three years and the current year, State- wise?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT)

(a) Government does not provide telecom service. Therefore, the question does not arise to provide STD, PCO and ISD telephone booths to the poor, widows and handicapped persons in the country by the Government.

However, PCOs are provided to eligible applicants including poor, widows and handicapped persons by Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd.(BSNL) / Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Ltd. (MTNL) subject to compliance of their terms & conditions and technical feasibility.

(b) The data of PCOs excluding Village Panchayat Telephones is maintained Circle-wise and not State-wise by BSNL/MTNL. No separate category of poor and widows is maintained by BSNL/MTNL. The Circle-wise details of PCO allotted by BSNL and MTNL in respect of handicapped persons during the last three years and the current financial year (upto 31.01.2010) are given in the Annexure.