

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6127
ANSWERED ON:03.05.2010
PCOS IN RURAL AREAS
Singh Smt. Meena

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

- (a) the number of PCOs opened in the country including rural areas during the last three years and till date, State-wise including Bihar;
- (b) whether all the said PCOs are working properly;
- (c) if not, the number of PCOs lying closed and the steps taken for re-starting them; and
- (d) the scheme being formulated for providing quality telecom services in the country?

Answer

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

(a) The data of Public Call Offices (PCOs) excluding Village Public Telephones (VPTs) is maintained circle-wise (not State-wise) by Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL)/Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL).

The total number of circle-wise PCOs opened in the country (including rural areas as well as Bihar) for the period 2006-07, 2007-08, 2008-09 and 2009-10 are given in the Annexure.

- (b) Yes, Madam. Generally PCOs are working satisfactorily.
- (c) Does not arise in view of (b) above.
- (d) Quality of Telecom Service is being monitored as per the benchmarks prescribed by Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI).