

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2234
ANSWERED ON:09.03.2011
PCO IN VILLAGES
Nagar Shri Surendra Singh

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

- (a) the number of Public Call Offices (PCOs) functioning in the country, especially in rural and backward areas at present, State-wise;
- (b) whether a number of PCOs remain out of order;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the corrective steps being taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SACHIN PILOT)

- (a) The data of Public Call Offices (PCOs) is maintained Circle-wise and not State-wise by Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd. (BSNL). The number of PCOs functioning in the rural and backward areas as on 31.01.2011 is given in the Annexure.
- (b) No, Madam. Normally, PCOs are functioning satisfactorily.
- (c) Does not arise in view of (b) above.
- (d) The steps taken to ensure proper functioning of PCOs by BSNL are periodic monitoring, priority in repair in case of fault, rehabilitation of outdoor network, etc. Wireless PCOs have also been introduced. A separate 3 digit number `179' has also been opened for booking of PCO faults by BSNL.