

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
RAILWAYS  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:676  
ANSWERED ON:15.03.2012  
PCO OPERATORS  
Agarwal Shri Rajendra

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

- (a) whether the Railways are aware that the operators of P.C.O. booths are facing a crisis of livelihood as their use has declined following the increasing popularity of mobile telephones;
- (b) if so, whether the Railways have any scheme to provide other alternative source of income for these P.C.O. operators;and
- (c) if so, the number of P.C.O. operators who have been provided with alternative source of income under this scheme, zone-wise?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K. H. MUNIYAPPA)

- (a): PCO booths are allotted at stations as a facility to the travelling public.
- (b): PCO booths at stations are awarded only to willing candidates on open tender basis at A-1, A, B & C category of stations and through inviting of application at other stations. These contracts are allotted for specific purpose. There is no provision for alternate source of income under the existing scheme.
- (c): Does not arise.