

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3890
ANSWERED ON:12.08.2015
Public Call Offices
Nete Shri Ashok Mahadeorao

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

- (a) the number of the Public Call Offices (PCOs) functioning in the country including in Maharashtra especially in the rural and backward tribal areas, State-wise;
- (b) whether most of these PCOs remain dysfunctional; and
- (c) if so, the reasons therefor and the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
(SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD)

(a) to (c) Circle-wise details segregated into urban and rural Public Call Offices (PCOs) of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) and Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) in the country as on 30.06.2015 including in Maharashtra are given in Annexure. Segregated data of PCOs functioning in backward tribal areas is not maintained.

BSNL and MTNL have reported that their PCOs are functioning satisfactorily though with the easy availability of mobile telephony, the demand for PCOs has been declining for some years.-

Annexure

Circle-wise details of Public Call Offices (PCOs) of BSNL) and MTNL
as on 30.06.2015

S.No. Circle / District PCOs

Urban Rural Total

BSNL

1 Andaman & Nicobar islands 92 63 155
2 Andhra Pradesh. 21,180 22,166 43,346
3 Assam 7,888 1,938 9,826
4 Bihar 1,503 838 2,341
5 Chhattisgarh 1,443 1,082 2,525
6 Gujarat 19,810 6,284 26,094
7 Haryana 2,586 1,299 3,885
8 Himachal Pradesh 854 2,169 3,023
9 Jammu & Kashmir 2,807 1,370 4,177
10 Jharkhand 1,942 3,028 4,970
11 Karnataka 31,117 15,896 47,013
12 Kerala 11,447 16,312 27,759
13 Madhya Pradesh 20,329 6,798 27,127
14 Maharashtra 47,828 26,614 74,442
15 North East-I 932 616 1,548
16 North-East-II 2,923 638 3,561
17 Odisha 2,610 1,763 4,373
18 Punjab 3,944 4,239 8,183
19 Rajasthan 6,249 4,689 10,938
20 Tamil Nadu 48,926 22,861 71,787
21 Uttar Pradesh (East) 10,769 6,839 17,608
22 Uttar Pradesh (West) 5,384 605 5,989
23 Uttarakhand 1,706 802 2,508
24 West Bengal 9,191 6,597 15,788
25 Kolkata Telecom District 6,723 18 6,741
26 Chennai Telecom District 12,740 914 13,654
TOTAL BSNL 2,82,923 1,56,438 4,39,361

MTNL

1. Delhi 56,418 - 56,418
2. Mumbai 81,248 - 81,248
TOTAL MTNL 1,37,666 - 1,37,666

Note: North East-I includes Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram
North East II includes Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur and Nagaland
West Bengal includes Sikkim
Maharashtra includes Goa
Andhra Pradesh includes Telangana
