

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS
DEPARTMENT OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1402
TO BE ANSWERED ON 4TH DECEMBER, 2024**

PUBLIC TELEPHONE BOOTHS

†1402. **SHRI ARUN KUMAR SAGAR:**

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATION be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of Public Telephone Booths that are working as on date, State-wise especially in backward and rural areas;
- (b) whether it is a fact that these are not functioning smoothly;
- (c) whether the Public Telephone Booths have been shut down during the last three years;
- (d) if so, the details including reason therefor, State-wise; and
- (e) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to ensure smooth and satisfactory functioning of Public Telephone Booths located at railway stations/other public places?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE FOR COMMUNICATIONS AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT
(DR. PEMMASANI CHANDRA SEKHAR)**

- (a) & (b) State/ UT wise number of Public Call Offices (PCOs) is attached as **Annexure-I**. These PCOs have been working satisfactorily.
- (c) to (e) Yes Sir, PCOs are being shut down over the period of time. It has been estimated that around 44,922 PCOs have been shut down in last three years. The decline of PCOs is attributed to the widespread adoption of mobile technology, increased tele density, and the availability of affordable tariffs for mobile services. These factors have collectively reduced the demand for PCO services.

Annexure to Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 1402 to be answered on 04.12.2024.

State/ UT wise count of PCOs:

Sl. No.	Name of State & Union Territory	PCOs as on 30.06.2024	
		RURAL	URBAN
1	Andhra Pradesh	309	611
2	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0
3	Assam	0	302
4	Bihar	0	29
5	Chhattisgarh	0	9
6	Goa	16	59
7	Gujarat	26	1174
8	Haryana	9	28
9	Himachal Pradesh	0	5
10	Jharkhand	0	0
11	Karnataka	63	369
12	Kerala	557	1529
13	Madhya Pradesh	0	397
14	Maharashtra	42	4314
15	Manipur	0	13
16	Meghalaya	1	9
17	Mizoram	0	0
18	Nagaland	0	0
19	Odisha	0	0
20	Punjab	54	324
21	Rajasthan	0	40
22	Sikkim	0	0
23	Tamil Nadu	305	2809
24	Telangana	37	1115
25	Tripura	36	76
26	Uttar Pradesh	48	492
27	Uttarakhand	8	249
28	West Bengal	0	392
29	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	0	11
30	Chandigarh	0	125
31	Dadra & Nagar Haweli and Daman & Diu	0	0
32	Delhi	0	891
33	Jammu & Kashmir	8	64
34	Ladakh	0	0
35	Lakshadweep	0	3
36	Puducherry	0	0
	Total	1519	15439
