

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5340
ANSWERED ON:23.04.2001
CELLULAR TELEPHONE IN N.E.R
WANGCHA RAJKUMAR

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether any private company has been authorised for operating the cellular telephone in the North East Region (NER);
- (b) if so, the reasons for such companies restricting their operation in one or two cities of the region; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to expand their operation in all the States of the region especially in Arunachal Pradesh?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) & (c): Cellular Mobile Telephone Service (CMTS) is restricted, at present, in North East Region including Arunachal Pradesh due to special circumstances prevailing in the region. Recently, Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) has also been given license for providing CMTS in North Eastern Region. BSNL has plans to provide Cellular Service in major towns/cities of North Eastern Region totalling to 49 towns subject to necessary clearance.