

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:613
ANSWERED ON:08.05.2002
CELLULAR SERVICES BY BSNL
NAWAL KISHORE RAI;RAMJILAL SUMAN

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

- (a) whether Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited had taken a decision during the past few months to introduce cellular service in the country;
- (b) if so, the date on which the above decision was taken initially;
- (c) the date from which the above service was to be introduced as per the initial decision;
- (d) the reasons for not introducing this service by the above Nigam as scheduled; and
- (e) the various regions of the country where this service is likely to be introduced now indicating the dates on which such service is likely to be introduced, region-wise?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND COMMUNICATIONS & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PF MAHAJAN)

(a) to (e): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT TO BE LAID ON THE TABLE OF LOK SABHA IN RESPECT OF PARTS (a) TO (e) OF LOK SABHA STAI QUESTION NO. 613 FOR 8TH MAY, 2002 REGARDING CELLULAR SERVICES BY BSNL.

(a) to (d): BSNL finalized the detailed tender specifications for the turnkey project to provide cellular mobile services and issued notice inviting tender in this regard in the month of January, 2001. It was planned to roll out the network in the last quarter of the financial year 2001-2002 on the expectation that equipments will be received by October, 2001. After detailed technical and commercial evaluation of the bids and extensive negotiations with the vendors leading to scaling down of prices, it was possible to finalise the tender only in December, 2001/January, 2002.

(e) As per schedule stipulated in the purchase order, the network is expected to be established in the different regions as below:

South region : August, 2002
West region : September, 2002
North region : October, 2002
East region : November, 2002