

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:242
ANSWERED ON:03.12.2003
CELLULAR MOBILE PHONE FACILITY IN WEST BENGAL
AMAR ROY PRADHAN

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

- (a) whether the Government are aware that Cellular Phone/ Mobile Phone facility is not available in various districts of West Bengal;
- (b) if so, the names of such districts; and
- (c) by when the above facility is likely to be provided in all the districts of West Bengal?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI , PRADHAN)

(a) Sir, as per terms and conditions of the Licence for Cellular Mobile Telephone Service (CMTS), the licensees for Telecom Circle Service areas are required to cover atleast 10% of the District Headquarters (DHQs) within first year and 50% of the District Headquarters within three years of effective date of Licence. The Licensee is also permitted to cover any other town in a District in lieu of the District Headquarter. The choice of District Headquarters / town to be covered and further expansion beyond 50% District Headquarters/ towns in a Service Area lies with the Licensee depending on his business decision. There is no mandatory requirement for coverage of 100% of the Service Area. Bharat Sanchar Nigam limited which has CMTS licence for Andman & Nicobar and West Bengal Telecom Circle Service Area and Kolkata Metro CityService Area, have intimated that they are providing CMTS in all the District Headquarters in West Bengal State.

(b) & (c):Do not arise in view of (a). above.