

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1061

ANSWERED ON:14.07.2004

MOBILE PHONE SERVICE

Athawale Shri Ramdas;Mahato Shri Bir Sing;Saroj Shri Daroga Prasad

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

- (a) whether the mobile telephone service has not been provided/introduced in several parts of the country;
- (b) if so, the names of the districts in the country for which mobile service has been approved;
- (c) the reasons for not introducing the said service in these areas;
- (d) the time by which the remaining parts of the country are likely to be provided this facility; and
- (e) the funds allocated therefor and the position of the required equipment in this regard?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) Department of Telecommunications as a licensor has granted licences to Public Sector Undertakings namely, Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Ltd. & Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd. and various other Private Operators to provide mobile services in the whole Country. As such Mobile services have been approved for all the districts in the country except those falling in the buffer zone i.e. within 10 Km of International borders. As on 30.06.2004, 569 District Head Quarters out of total 593 District Head Quarters in the country have been provided with Cellular Mobile Service. The remaining districts mostly fall within the buffer zone and the coverage in these districts has also been planned by the various operators. However, no time frame for coverage of mobile service in remaining part of the Country can be specified at this stage.

(e) The allocation of funds and desired equipment for the further expansion of mobile services entirely depends on the business plan of the Service Providers.