

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4219
ANSWERED ON:21.12.2005
MOBILE TELEPHONE SERVICES IN STATES
Mandal Shri Sanat Kumar

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

- (a) whether mobile telephone services have been introduced in all the States as of now;
- (b) whether some specific areas in certain States have been kept out of the mobile connectivity especially in Sundarbans (West Bengal);
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and
- (d) the time by which those areas are likely to be covered under mobile connectivity?

Answer

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

(a) Yes, Sir. Mobile telephone services have been introduced in all the States of the country.

(b) to (d) The Licence Agreements of Cellular Mobile Telephone Service (CMTS) and Unified Access Services (UASL), inter-alia, provide that:
`In Metros, 90% of the service area shall be covered within one year of the effective date. In Telecom Circles, atleast 10% of the District headquarters (DHQ) will be covered in the first year and 50% of the District Headquarters will be covered within three years of effective date of licence. The licensee shall also be permitted to cover any other town in a District in lieu of the District Headquarters. The choice of the District Headquarters/towns to be covered and further expansion beyond 50% District Headquarters/town shall lie with the Licensee depending on their business decision. There is no requirement of mandatory coverage of rural areas.`
Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) has already covered all the district Headquarters of West Bengal Circle and is further extending its cellular coverage upto Tehsil Headquarters progressively on techno-commercial considerations. BSNL has already covered Gangasagar, Canning, Raidighi, Nazat, Kakdwip, Falta, Raichak and Joynagar around Sundarban with its cellular service and has planned to cover Hingaljanj, Malancha, Sarberia, Bakkhali, Basanti, Rudranagar and Sandeshkhali during next year.