

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4196  
ANSWERED ON:21.12.2005  
MOBILE COVERAGE  
Singh Shri Chandrabhan Bhaiya

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

- (a) whether a proper Mobile coverage is not available on national rail routes and national highways;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) the steps being taken for providing a proper Mobile coverage on national rail routes; and
- (d) the time by which the said coverage is likely to be made available particularly on Bhopal-Damoh-Jabalpur national highway in Madhya Pradesh?

**Answer**

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

(a) to (c) The Licence Agreements of Cellular Mobile Telephone Service (CMTS) and Unified Access Services Licence (UASL) inter-alia state 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 planned progressive coverage of all National Highways (NH) and some of the important railway routes by its mobile services based on techno-commercial considerations. BSNL has so far provided mobile coverage along about 37950 Kms of National Highways. Around 9710 Kms of main Railway routes are getting incidental coverage of mobile services.

(d) BSNL has planned to extend significant mobile coverage on Bhopal-Damoh-Jabalpur National Highway in Madhya Pradesh progressively by year 2007.