

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:95  
ANSWERED ON:06.03.2002  
CELLULAR MOBILE SERVICES  
ANANTA NAYAK

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

- (a) whether the Government are considering to provide cellular mobile services to the customer at cheaper rates;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether any plan has been drawn up in that regard for various States, particularly for the districts which are not covered under Cellular Services;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

**Answer**

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

(a) & (b): In order to provide a good competitive environment, the Government have granted multiple licences for operation of Cellular Mobile Telephone Service (CMTS) in most of the service areas and Cellular tariff have shown a marked downward trend. When the fourth cellular operators, who were granted Licences in different Service Areas in September/October 2001 commence service, competition is expected to intensify bringing down the tariffs further. Telecom Regulatory Authority of India is responsible for fixation of tariff and is keeping a close watch on the tariff prevailing in the cellular service market.

(c) & (d): As per the terms and conditions of the CMTS Licence Agreement, an operator is required to cover 10% of District Headquarters within one year and 50% of District Headquarters within three years. However, Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd. has plans to provide CMTS to all District Headquarters, wherever permitted by the Government, in two phases throughout the country (except Mumbai and Delhi) covering important Towns, Highways and Railway Routes. So far as Mumbai & Delhi are concerned, apart from the private operators, Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Ltd. is also providing CMTS.

(e) Does not arise in view of (c) & (d) above.