

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:959  
ANSWERED ON:06.03.2002  
CELLULAR SERVICE IN KERALA  
RAMESH CHENNITHALA

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

- (a) the time by which cellular phone facilities be available to the entire Kerala;
- (b) the total number of cellular subscribers in Kerala; and
- (c) the number of applications registered for the telephone connection in Kerala, district-wise?

**Answer**

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

(a) Sir, the following four companies have been granted licences for operation of Cellular Mobile Telephone Services(CMTS) in Kerala Telecom Circle:

1. BPL Mobile Cellular Limited
2. Escotel Mobile Communications Limited
3. Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited
4. Bharti Cellular Limited

Out of these four companies the service has been started by the first two companies in the Kerala Telecom Circle and the service is available, at present, in 12 District Headquarters. As per information furnished by Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited, the company has planned to provide CMTS in 100 cities in the Kerala Telecom Circle in two phases. As per the terms and conditions of the CMTS Licence, an operator is required to cover 10% of District Headquarters within one year and 50% of District Headquarters within three years. There is no obligation on the cellular operators under the licence for coverage of more than 50% District Headquarters.

(b) & (c): As per information furnished by Cellular Operators Association of India, the total number of cellular subscribers in Kerala Telecom Circle as on 31.01.2002 are 3,55,257; Cellular service is being provided on demand and there is no waiting list.