

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6372
ANSWERED ON:07.05.2003
MOBILE SERVICE IN MAHARASHTRA
NAMDEO HARBAJI DIWATHE

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

- (a) whether Talika level villages under Bhandara, Chanderpur, Gondia and Gadchiroli districts of Maharashtra have been covered under mobile service;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) by when Taluka level villages of the above districts are likely to be covered under mobile service?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY(SHRIMATI S MAHAJAN)

(a)&(b): The following companies are Licenced to provide and have commissioned Cellular Mobile Telephone Service (CMTS) in Maharashtra Telecom Circle Service Area.

1. M/s. BPL Mobile Cellular Ltd.
2. M/s. IDEA Cellular Ltd.
3. M/s. Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd. (BSNL)
4. M/s Bharti Cellular Ltd.

As per the information provided by these companies, District headquarters of Bhandara, Gondia, and Chanderpur and Bhadrawati & Warora Talukas of Chanderpur district are covered with CMTS. None of the said companies are providing CMTS in the Gadchiroli district of Maharashtra.

(c)&(d): As per the terms and conditions of the Licence for CMTS, in the Telecom Circle service Areas, an operator is required to cover 10% of the District Headquarters within one year and 50% of the district Headquarters within three years. The Licensee is also permitted to cover any other town in a district in lieu of the District Headquarter. The choice of District Headquarter/ Towns to be covered and further expansion beyond 50% District Headquarters/ Towns shall lie with the Licensee depending on his business decision. There is no mandatory requirement for coverage of rural areas.

However, the Government operator, namely, BSNL envisages to cover all the District Headquarters in its licensed service area of Maharashtra Telecom Circle.