

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
COMMUNICATIONS  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:165  
ANSWERED ON:24.07.2000  
MOBILE TELEPHONE SYSTEM  
NARESH KUMAR PUGLIA

**Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the Gadchiroli and Chandrapur districts of Maharashtra have been connected with mobile telephone system;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the time by which the said facility is likely to be provided in the said districts ?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE FOR COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR)

(a) to (c) : Sir, in Maharashtra Telecom Circle, licences for operation of Cellular Mobile Telephone Service have been given to M/s. BPL Cellular Limited (effective date of licence 19.12.1995) and to M/s. Birla AT&T Communications Limited (effective date of licence 12.12.1995). The service in Gadchiroli and Chandrapur districts of Maharashtra has not been provided by either of the Operators as yet. Licence has also been granted to Department of Telecom Services (DTS) for operation of Cellular Service in Maharashtra Circle, however, DTS has not finalised its plan for operation of Cellular Service in Maharashtra. As per the License Agreement granted to the private cellular operators, at least 10% of the District Headquarters will be covered in the first year and 50% of the District Headquarters will be covered within three years of effective date of License. The licensees have also been permitted to cover any other town in a District in lieu of the District Headquarters. The choice of District Headquarters/towns to be covered and further expansion beyond 50% District Headquarters/towns lies with the Licensee companies depending on their business decision.