

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3504
ANSWERED ON:17.08.2005
MOBILE SERVICE IN MAHARASHTRA
Ahir Shri Hansraj Gangaram

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

- (a) whether mobile phone service has been made available in all the districts and also upto tehsil level in the State of Maharashtra;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) the efforts being made by the Government to make available the mobile facility in rural areas particularly in Naxal affected areas of Vidarbh in Maharashtra?

Answer

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

(a) to (c) Sir, Mobile Phone Service has been made available in all the District Headquarters and 313 Tehsil Headquarters (THQs) in the Maharashtra Telecom Circle Service Area. As per Licence Agreement of Cellular Mobile Telephone Service (CMTS)/Unified Access Services (UAS) Licence, in metros 90% of the service area shall be covered within one year of the effective date. In Telecom Circles, atleast 10% of Districts Headquarters (DHQs) will be covered in first year and 50% of DHQs will be covered within three years of effective date of licence. Coverage of District Headquarters/towns would mean that atleast 90% of area bounded by the Municipal limits should get the required streets as well as in building coverage. The choice of District Headquarters/towns to be covered and further expansion beyond 50% District Headquarters/towns lies with the licensee depending on their business decision. There is no requirement of mandatory coverage of rural areas.

(d) Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd. (BSNL) has plan to provide mobile service up to THQs, including those of naxalite affected areas of Vidarbh subject to prevalent law and order situation.