

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:228
ANSWERED ON:02.03.2005
TELECOM SERVICES IN RURAL AREAS
Singh Shri Ganesh

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

- (a) the percentage of rural areas where private and mobile companies were to provide telephone and mobile services in Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh;
- (b) whether private telephone and mobile companies have provided lesser telephonic services in rural areas of Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh than the specified percentage;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the reasons thereof; and
- (d) the action taken by the government against the said private companies?

Answer

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

(a) to (d) M/S Bharti commenced its Basic Telephone Services in Madhya Pradesh Service Area which includes Chhattisgarh also in June, 1998. As per roll out obligation, it was to provide 16,500 Village Public Telephones (VPTs). M/s Bharti provided 611 VPTs by 31.10.2003. Liquidated Damages to the tune of Rs.4 Crores were recovered from M/s Bharti for delay in provisioning of VPTs and Direct Exchange Lines.

No Cellular Mobile Service Provider had any roll out obligations for providing connections in rural areas.

The old Private Basic Service licensees including M/s Bharti who had roll-out obligations for provisioning of Village Public Telephones, have migrated to Unified Access (Basic and Cellular) Services License in November 2003.

Consequent to this migration their roll out obligations have changed to coverage of 10% of District Headquarters (DHQs) will be covered in the first year of the effective date of the license and 50% of the DHQs in the first three years of the effective date of the license. There is no requirement of mandatory coverage of rural areas.