

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4594  
ANSWERED ON:21.12.2011  
ROLL OUT OF 3G SERVICES  
Vishwanath Shri Adagur H

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

- (a) whether at present, only 2 per cent of potential subscribers have access to 3G services;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise and the reasons therefor;
- (c) the number of towns/villages covered by 3G services so far; State-wise including Karnataka;
- (d) the additional feature s/facilities that are available to customers in 3G services as compared to 2G services;
- (e) whether the Government proposes to reframe the guidelines in regard to launching of the services in a time bound manner; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof and the time by which the 3G services is likely to be available at every part of the country?

**Answer**

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

(a)to(d) Madam, as per reports received from various telecom service providers, the 3G services are available to the customers of District Headquarters ('DHQ')/towns/villages covered so far using 3G spectrum. Licenses for providing the mobile services have been granted License Service Area (LSA) wise and not the state wise. Accordingly LSA wise details regarding number of DHQs/towns/villages covered so far using 3G spectrum are given in Annexure. In comparison of 2G, primarily 3G customers have access to high speed data, video streaming, video call etc.

(e)&(f) Time frame for rollout of networks for 3G has been provided in the license. As per license conditions, the licensee to whom the spectrum is assigned shall ensure that at least 50% of the District Headquarters ('DHQ') in the service area will be covered using the 3G Spectrum, out of which at least 15% of the DHQs should be Rural Short Distance Charging Areas ('SDCA'), within five year from the Effective Date. The operator shall be permitted to cover any other town in a District in lieu of the DHQ. The choice of DHQs/towns to be covered and further expansion beyond 50% of DHQs/towns shall lie with the operator. The Effective Date shall be the date when the right to use awarded spectrum commercially commences. At present there is no proposal before the Government to reframe the guidelines with regard to launching of the 3G services.