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**Title :**Need to introduce cellular/mobile phone services in Tripura. - Laid.

SHRI KHAGEN DAS (TRIPURA WEST) : I would like to draw the attention of the Union Government to the introduction of Cellular Mobile services in Tripura and other North-Eastern States. The Members of Parliament from the North-Eastern States had been pursuing for long for the same. The Government had announced in the House in 2002 that appropriate measures would be taken to introduce the services in the region. Subsequently the Government also assured that BSNL would make all efforts to start the service by August/September, 2003 progressively covering all the North-Eastern States. But it is regretted that the progress of work in Tripura is in the abyss of despair. It is also leant that about 6000 Mobile connections are sanctioned in Tripura. The population in all the North-Eastern States and also the huge demands. The State of Tripura deserves to have the minimum fifteen thousand Mobil connection in the first place. Further, one BSC is required to be given to Tripura immediately for the Mobile Services in the same line of justification as have been allotted to other States in North-East. I would urge the Government to take suitable steps to complete all the activities to start Cellular Mobile services in Tripura at the earliest.