

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Sir, in fact, we are laying great emphasis on the Indian System of Medicines and traditional medicines. As far as these reports are concerned, many of these reports are motivated. My Ministry in collaboration with the Ministry of Health will take effective steps to ensure the desire of such misinformation is not perpetrated.

DR. VIJAY MALLYA: Sir, India has an extremely attractive environment with the necessary human resources to encourage huge investment in basic research and development in the pharmaceutical sector. Recently, one of the world's foremost multinational companies actually, consciously located their Research and Development Wing in Singapore. And, the reason cited was that there were not enough Intellectual Property Protection Rights in India. I would like the Minister to kindly note, being myself the Chairman of the Aventis Pharma Limited, a multinational drug company, that there is a reluctance to invest in India because of lack of patent protection.

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Mr. Chairman, Sir, again, this does not involve my Ministry. But I will be more than happy to answer this question. First of all, the Third Amendment Bill, the latest amendment, would ensure that our patents are in conformity with international obligations. The Government will be taking a position very soon in that regard, say, by January, 2005. As far as the investment climate is concerned, which my learned friend is talking about, in fact, it is fast changing. Multinationals have been coming to me and evincing extreme interest in investing in India. More and more multinationals are investing in India. Presently some multinationals are collaborating with Indian pharmaceutical companies by transferring their know-how and technology to them for the purpose of manufacture of products for the simple reason that we have great human talent, and we are a low cost economy. Nobody else in the world has this combination available. So, India is going to forge ahead in this regard. We are going to be the leaders in the pharmaceutical industry in the years to come, and we are ready to compete with anybody else in the world.

पूर्वोत्तर क्षेत्र में सेलुलर फोन सेवा

*222. श्री द्विजेन्द्र नाथ शर्मा: क्या संचार और सूचना प्रौद्योगिकी मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) पूर्वोत्तर क्षेत्र में ऐसे कितने जिले हैं जहां पर सेलुलर फोन सेवाएं नहीं हैं;

(ख) क्या सरकार इन जिलों में सेलुलर फोन सेवाएं प्रदान करने का विचार रखती है; और

(ग) यदि हाँ, तो इस संबंध में सरकार की नीति क्या है?

संचार और सूचना प्रौद्योगिकी मंत्री (श्री दयानिधि मारन): (क) से (ग) विवरण सभा पटल पर रख दिया गया है।

विवरण

(क) पूर्वोत्तर क्षेत्र में 16 जिला मुख्यालयों में अभी सेल्युलर फोन सेवा प्रदान की जानी है। जिन जिला मुख्यालयों में सेल्युलर फोन सेवा उपलब्ध है उनके ब्यौरे तथा जिन जिला मुख्यालयों में सेल्युलर फोन सेवा उपलब्ध नहीं है उनके ब्यौरे (विवरण-1) में दिए गए हैं। (नीचे देखिए)

(ख) और (ग) भारत संचार निगम लिमिटेड (बीएसएनएल) ने दो जिला मुख्यालयों अर्थात् कैलाशहर (त्रिपुरा में) और बाघमारा (मेघालय में) को छोड़कर शेष सभी जिला मुख्यालयों में सेल्युलर मोबाइल सेवा प्रदान करने की योजना बनाई है। ये दोनों जिले मध्यवर्ती क्षेत्र में अर्थात् अंतर्राष्ट्रीय सीमाओं से 10 किमी के भीतर आते हैं और गृह मंत्रालय से सुरक्षा संबंधी क्लियरेंस मिलने पर इन दोनों जिलों में सेल्युलर सेवा प्रदान करने की योजना बनाई जाएगी।

विवरण-1

असम सहित पूर्वोत्तर क्षेत्र के जिला मुख्यालयों में सेल्युलर मोबाइल सेवाओं की स्थिति

क्र० सं०	सर्किल	राज्य	क्र० सं०	जिन जिला मुख्यालयों में सेल्युलर फोन सेवा प्रदान की गई है	जिन जिला मुख्यालयों में सेल्युलर फोन सेवा प्रदान नहीं की गई है
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	पूर्वोत्तर-1	मिजोरम	1.	आइजॉल	
			2.	चंपाई	
			3.	कोलासिब	
			4.	लॉंगतलाई	
			5.	लंगलेई	
			6.	ममित	
			7.	सईहा	
			8.	सेरछिप	

1	2	3	4	5	6
2.	मेघालय	1. जोवाई 2. नोंगपोह 3. नोंगस्टोइन 4. शिलांग 5. तूरा 6. विलियमनगर			बाघमारा
3.	त्रिपुरा	1. अगरतला 2. अंबास्सा 3. आरुंके० पुर			कैलाशहर
4.	पूर्वोत्तर-II नागालैंड	1. दीमापुर 2. कोहिमा 3. मोकोकचुंग 4. मोन 5. पेरेन 6. त्युनसांग 7. जुनहेबेटो			किपहेरी लॉंगलेंग फेक वोखा
5.	मणिपुर	1. बिशनपुर 2. चंदेल 3. चूड़ाचंदपुर 4. इम्फाल (पूर्व) 5. सेनापती 6. तामेंगलॉंग 7. थौबल 8. उखरूल 9. इम्फाल (पश्चिम)			
6.	अरुणाचल प्रदेश	1. बोमडिला 2. इटानगर (सिटी इन युपिया) 3. खोन्सा 4. पासीघाट 5. रोईंग 6. तावेंग 7. तेजू 8. जीरो			अलॉंग अनिनी चांगलांग दपोरिजो हवाई सेप्पा यांगते मिंगक्योंग यूपिया

1	2	3	4	5	6
7.	असम	असम	1.	बारपेट्टा	करीमगंज
			2.	बोंगईगांव	
			3.	धाएमाजी	
			4.	डिब्रूगढ़	
			5.	दीफू	
			6.	दुबुरी	
			7.	गोलपारा	
			8.	गोलाघाट	
			9.	गुवाहाटी (कामरूप)	
			10.	हफलॉंग	
			11.	हल्लाकांडी	
			12.	जोरहाट	
			13.	कोकराझार	
			14.	मंगलदोई	
			15.	मारीगांव	
			16.	नागांव	
			17.	नलबारी	
			18.	उत्तरी लखीमपुर	
			19.	सिबसागर	
			20.	सिल्चर	
			21.	तेजपुर (सोनितपुर)	
			22.	तिनसुकिया	

Cellular Phone Service in the North-Eastern region

†*222. SHRI DWIJENDRA NATH SHARMAH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of districts in the North-Eastern Region which are not having cellular phone services;

(b) whether Government propose to provide cellular phone services in such districts; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) if so, Government's policy in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN): (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) 16 District Headquarters are yet to be provided with cellular phone service in North Eastern Region. The details of the District Headquarters (DHQs) having cellular phone service as well as DHQs not having cellular phone service are given in the Statement I (See below).

(b) and (c) Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) has planned to provide cellular mobile service in all the remaining DHQs except two, namely, Kailashahar (in Tripura) & Baghmara (in Meghalaya). Both these districts fall in the buffer zone i.e., within 10 Kms from International borders and the provision of cellular service in these two districts shall be planned on receipt of necessary security clearance from the Ministry of Home Affairs.

Statement-I

Status of Cellular Mobile Services in the District Head Quarters (DHQs) of North Eastern Region including Assam

Sl. No.	Circle	State	Sl. No.	DHQ provided with cellular phone service	DHQ not provided with cellular phone service
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	North East-I	Mizoram	1	Aizawal	
			2	Changpai	
			3	Kolasib	
			4	Lawngtlai	
			5	Lunglei	
			6	Mamit	
			7	Saiha	
			8	Serchhip	
2.		Meghalaya	1	Jowai	Baghmara
			2	Nongpoh	

1	2	3	4	5	6
			3	Nongstoin	
			4	Shillong	
			5	Tura	
			6	Williamnagar	
3		Tripura	1	Agartala	Kailashahar
			2	Ambassa	
			3	R.K. Pur	
4	North East-II	Nagaland	1	Dimapur	Kipheri
			2	Kohima	Longleng
			3	Mokokchung	Phek
			4	Mon	Wokha
			5	Peren	
			6	Tuensang	
			7	Zunhebeto	
		Manipur	1	Bishenpur	
			2	Chandel	
			3	Churachandpur	
			4	Imphal (East)	
			5	Senapati	
			6	Tamenglong	
			7	Thoubal	
			8	Ukhrul	
			9	Imphal (West)	
6.		Arunachal Pradesh	1	Bomdila	Along
			2	Itanagar (City in Yupia)	Anini
			3	Khonsa	Changlang
			4	Pasighat	Daporijo
			5	Roing	Hawai
			6	Tawang	Seppa
			7	Tezu	Yangte
			8	Ziro	Yingkiong
7.	Assam	Assam	1	Barpetta	Yupia
			2	Bongaigaon	Karimgani
			3	Dhaemaji	
			4	Dibrugarh	
			5	Diphu	
			6	Duburi	

1	2	3	4	5	6
			7	Goalpara	
			8	Golaghat	
			9	Guwahati (Kamrup)	
			10	Hailong	
			11	Hallakandi	
			12	Jorhat	
			13	Kokrajhar	
			14	Mangaldoi	
			15	Marigaon	
			16	Nagaon	
			17	Nalbari	
			18	North Lakhimpur	
			19	Sibsagar	
			20	Silchar	
			21	Tezur (Sonitpur)	
			22	Tinsukia	

SHRI DWIJENDRA NATH SHARMAH: Sir, in my question, I wanted to know how many districts were going to be connected by cellular phone services. The Minister has given details pertaining to District Headquarters. Sir, a major drawback in the development of the North-Eastern Region is communication, and there are a lot of interior places, hilly places, in the North-East which are not connected by cellular phone services. May I know from the hon. Minister whether the Government has taken any steps for extending such cellular phone services to interior places?

SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN: Sir, the hon. Member is right. Deployment of cellular phone services in the North-Eastern area is slow compared to the rest of the parts of the country. The reason is that we had awarded licenses to BSNL only in the end of March 03, and the work started mainly in the beginning of this year. Only 16 districts are left to be covered, and we are sure that we will be able to cover them by August of next year.

SHRI DWIJENDRA NATH SHARMAH: My second supplementary is this. Apart from BSNL services, there are some private players of cellular phone, particularly Reliance Mobile Services, which are there in the North-East in one or two places. But the service of these private cellular phones is very bad, and there are a lot of complaints from the public. I would like

to know whether the Government has any control over these private players. What steps the Government is contemplating to take to improve the private cellular phones services as well?

SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN: As far as private cellular phone services are concerned, there is a quality of service which these operators have to maintain. If a subscriber feels that any particular operator is not giving that kind of service, he can register a complaint; or, as a group, they can go to the TRAI and lodge a complaint. On the lighter side, I can suggest to the hon. Member that if the customers are suffering from private operators, they can shift to BSNL.

SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Sir, in Kailashahar district and in many sub-divisional headquarters of Tripura, there are no cellular phone services. The network has not been extended and cellular phones are not being provided to people. The reason given is...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Don't give reasons. Put your question.

SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Kailashahar District and other sub-divisional headquarters would be provided with cellular phone services.

SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN: We have been constantly upgrading and installing new cellular phone services throughout the country. As such, we have an ambitious plan to provide two hundred million phones in the next three years; this is not the BSNL and private operators put together. This is a process, Sir, and we are sure that we will be able to achieve this target.

SHRI ROBERT KHARSHIING: Sir, may I, through you, know from the hon. Minister whether he would kindly convene a meeting with the North-Eastern MPs on a regular basis, as is being done by other Ministries, to discuss, in particular, this matter regarding cellular phone services? And I join my colleague from Assam in representing to you about the abysmal performance of Reliance which has to monopoly in places like Shillong and Guwahati.

SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN: Sir, it is a nice advice given by the learned Member. We will definitely take it up. In fact, we are planning, in the beginning of the next year, CGMs' meeting at Shillong. We will definitely invite the MPs to that meeting.