

(b) to (d) As per the Licence Agreement for CMTS, in Telecom Circles, atleast 10% of the District Headquarters (DHQs) are to be covered in the first year and 50% of the District Headquarters within three years of effective date of Licence. The licence is also permitted to cover any other town in a District in lieu of the District Headquarters. There is no requirement of mandatory coverage of entire service area with the service. 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. The base stations are planned and located by a service provider depending on techno-economic considerations to provide service to the end users. However, BSNL has made plans for coverage of DHQs, important tourist and pilgrimage centres, important National Highways etc. Based on this, the cellular capacity has been planned for various States in North Eastern Region.

Mobile phone services in N.E. Region

962. DR. KARAN SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to extend mobile phone services to the entire North-Eastern Region and other border areas by the end of the year 2003;

(b) if so, the areas not covered by such services in the beginning of the year, and the progress so far, made in covering these areas by such services, indicating the operators who have undertaken to provide such services in the respective areas and the terms of the undertakings; and

(c) the details of the projects to cover the rest of the NE Region?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) and (b) Sir, the Government is not directly in the business of providing any telecom Service. However, the Government Companies, Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) and Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL), provide Telecom Services in the country. BSNL has planned to provide Cellular Mobile Telephone Services (CMTS) in North Eastern (N.E.) Region during the current financial year. The States of Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Mizoram,

Nagaland, Tripura and Meghalaya (except Shillong), Assam (except Guwahati) in the N.E. Region were not having Cellular Mobile Telephone Service in the beginning of this year. Cellular Mobile Telephone Service was being provided in Guwahati and Shillong by a private Service Provider (M/s. Reliance Telecom Limited). During the year, BSNL has so far launched its Cellular Mobile Telephone Service in the State Capitals of Nagaland and Manipur. Presently, BSNL and M/s. Reliance Telecom Limited are providing Mobile Telephone Service in N.E. Region. Another Cellular Operator M/s. Hexacom India Limited has also been granted licence to operate Cellular Mobile Telephone Service in North East Telecom circle Service Area. However, they have not started their service as yet. As per the Licence Agreement, in Telecom Circles, atleast 10% of the District Headquarters (DHQs) will be covered in the first year and 50% of the District Headquarters will be covered within three years of effective date of Licence. The licensee shall also be permitted to cover any other town in a District in lieu of the District Headquarters. There is no requirement of the mandatory coverage of the entire service area with the service. The choice of District Headquarters/towns to be covered and further expansion beyond 50% District Headquarters/towns shall lie with the Licensee depending on their business decision.

(c) BSNL has plans to provide Mobile Service in all District Headquarters of N.E. Region in the current financial year.

Mobile phone services in Jammu and Kashmir

†963. DR. AKHTAR HASAN RIZVI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have launched mobile phone services in Jammu and Kashmir;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of mobile connections issued, so far; and

(d) whether non-governmental companies are also providing mobile phone connections in the State?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY**

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.