

According to the terms and conditions of the Licence for CMTS, an operator for Telecom Circle Service Area is required to cover 10% of District Headquarters in the Service Area within one year and 50% of District Headquarters within three years. The Licensee is also permitted to cover any other town in a district in lieu of the District Headquarter. 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. It is not mandatory under the CMTS Licence Agreement to cover 100% of the Service Area.

Provision of free of cost handsets by cellular companies

*270 SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether BSNL is considering to provide handsets free of cost to customers as part of its tariff plans as is being done by one of the service providers these days; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) No, Sir. There is no such proposal at present to provide free handsets to customers.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

Procurement of sub-standard paddy

*271. SHRI AMAR SINGH:

SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that FCI procured 2.91 lakh MT of paddy valued at Rs. 160.05 crore during the period from 1997-98 to 2000-2001 which was found to be sub-standard;

(b) what action has been taken against the delinquent officials; and

(c) if no action has been taken, the reasons therefor?