

Mobile phone facility in NER

942. DR. C. NARAYANA REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to introduce mobile phone facility in the North-Eastern Region and Jammu and Kashmir;

(b) by when the BSNL would launch the services; and

(c) how Government propose to ensure security of the areas in the wake of the new facility?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) Sir, M/s Reliance Telecom (P) Ltd. who have been issued licences for Cellular Mobile Telephone Service (CMTS) for North East Telecom Circle and Assam Telecom Circle (which two Circle cover the North Eastern Region), are already providing CMTS in Shillong and Guwahati. Expansion as well as fresh start of CMTS, which was barred for sometime in the North Eastern Region and Jammu and Kashmir, was permitted by a Government Order dated 21.8.2002.

(b) BSNL has plans to launch the CMTS in North East Region and Jammu and Kashmir from August, 2003. However, BSNL will make efforts to start service in a few places in Jammu and Kashmir even earlier.

(c) The Cellular Operators are required to provide the monitoring facilities at their switches as prescribed by the Government from time to time.

Telephone Exchanges in A.P.

943. DR. C. NARAYANA REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the BSNL would not take up installation of any new exchanges in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and