

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:717

ANSWERED ON:21.11.2007

ILL- EFFECTS OF MOBILE PHONES

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**Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the Union Government has decided to conduct a study to find out the negative effect of cellular phones and mobile towers as reported in 'The Times of India' dated October 10, 2007;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Union Government has identified the institutes which are nominated to conducted such study;
- (d) if so, the names of such institutes identified for the purpose; and
- (e) the time by which the said study will be completed?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMDOSS)

(a) to (e): According to Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), the available literature does not establish conclusive evidence on the safety or risk of Radio Frequency Radiation (RFR) but growing scientific evidences indicate towards the bio effects and adverse effects of RFR which may be possible if not probable. The ICMR recently organized a National Symposium on "Hazards of Environmental Pollution & Changing Life Style on Human Reproduction". The ill effect of cell phone was also identified as a priority area during the Symposium. Based on the recommendations of the National Symposium ICMR developed a Task Force, consisting of eminent scientists working in this discipline, on "Hazards of Environmental Pollution & Changing Life Style on Reproduction". However, in view of absence of conclusive international scientific data, the Council is conducting an animal study to find out the effect of RFR on male reproduction. The preliminary results have indicated significant reduction in testicular size, weight and in sperm counts. The Council developed a protocol to study "Effect of Radio Frequency Radiation (RFR) entitled from Cell Phone and Cell Masts on Male Reproduction". The study is proposed to be carried out as a pilot study in Delhi at four sites for two years duration. Based on the results of this study, the study may be extended to other Metros cities, in future. The Council is also in the process of initiating an adhoc project – "Development of a model system for quantitative microwave exposure to experimental animals for studying behavioral, biochemical, immunological and genotoxic effects".