

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3256
ANSWERED ON:22.12.2008
SETTING UP OF SIGNAL TOWERS
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Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of Signal Towers set up by Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) in Gujarat;
- (b) whether the said signal towers are adequate for providing telephone and mobile services in the State;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether complaints have been received regarding the inconvenience caused to the people by the said towers;
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto; and
- (f) the remedial steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA)

- (a) Sir, BSNL has setup 2,376 mobile towers in Gujarat as on 16.12.2008.
- (b) & (c) All district and Tehsil Headquarters and 10,012 villages out of 18,632 are presently covered in Gujarat Telecom Circle by mobile network as on 16.12.2008. Further, BSNL plans to expand the mobile service coverage to all the villages having population more than 1000 progressively in next three years.
- (d) to (f) General complaints have been received regarding health hazards & related issues. However as per the studies of World Health Organisation as well as Indian Council of Medical Research, no adverse effects on health due to radiation caused by mobile telephone towers have been proved so far. Government has adopted the guidelines issued by International Commission on Non-ionizing Radiation Protection (ICNIRP) regarding Specific Absorption Rate (SAR) for mobile phones and reference levels for limiting Electro Magnetic Emission.