

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:202

ANSWERED ON:09.08.2010

INSTALLATION OF MOBILE TOWERS

Naranbhai Shri Kachhadia;Sahu Shri Chandulal Chandu Bhaiya

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether some telecom operators especially in the private sector are not complying with the stipulated norms/guidelines regarding installation of towers in the country including Delhi and the National Capital Region thereby causing various types of hazards to the public;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken/being taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY(SHRI A. RAJA)

(a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT TO BE LAID ON THE TABLE OF THE LOK SABHA IN RESPECT OF PARTS (a) TO (c) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 202 FOR 9TH AUGUST, 2010 REGARDING "INSTALLATION OF MOBILE TOWERS"

(a) & (b) Madam, Mobile Towers are being installed by the Telecom Service Providers based on siting clearances issued by Wireless Planning and Coordination Wing of Department of Telecommunications (DoT). With respect to siting clearances, no case of non-compliance has been reported to the Government.

As per terms and conditions of Unified Access Service license, the licensee is required to ensure that the telecommunication installation carried out by it should not become a safety hazard and is not in contravention of any statute, rule or regulation and public policy.

Accordingly, before installation of towers, Service providers are required to obtain necessary clearances from concerned Municipal Authorities / local bodies wherever required. State Governments / Municipal Authorities have formulated their own policy for grant of permission for installation of mobile towers stipulating structural safety norms and levy/fee etc. Some of the Municipal Authorities / local bodies have reported non-compliance of their guidelines by mobile operators. Many aggrieved Telecom Service Providers/Infrastructure providers have approached the various Courts to set aside the orders of the State Government / local bodies regarding charging of exorbitant levy and other issues. Complaints have also been received by the Government regarding fear of health hazards from radiation of mobile towers.

(c) To avoid health hazard from radiation of Mobile Towers, Department of Telecommunications (DoT) has issued instructions to all the Access Service Providers to conform to the limits of radiation as prescribed by International Commission on Non Ionising Radiation Protection (ICNIRP) from time to time. Latest detailed instructions have been issued vide DoT letter no. 800-15/2010-VAS dated 8.4.2010, which inter-alia states that:

(I) All Base Station Transceivers (BTSs) should be self certified as meeting the radiation norms. Self certification is to be submitted to respective Telecom Enforcement Resource & Monitoring (TERM) Cells of DoT by 15.11.2010.

(II) All new BTS sites should start radiating only after self certificate has been submitted to relevant TERM Cells.

(III) The TERM Cell will test upto 10 per cent of new BTS sites randomly at its discretion. Additionally, BTS sites against which there are public complaints shall also be tested by TERM Cell.

(IV) If a site fails to meet the Electro Magnetic Radiation criterion, a penalty of Rs.5 lakh shall be levied per BTS per service provider. Service providers must meet the criterion within one month of the report of TERM Cell in such cases, after which site will be shut down.

Further, Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has started pre-consultation process on "Telecom Towers and Related Issues" on 5th February, 2010, for seeking stakeholders comments. Based on the inputs received from stake holders, TRAI is contemplating to float a consultation paper on the issues pertaining to telecom towers.