

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:38  
ANSWERED ON:23.02.2011  
RADIATION FROM MOBILE TOWERS/HANDSETS  
Nahata Smt. P. Jaya Prada;Reddy Shri Anantha Venkatarami

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

- (a) whether reports have been received about the cases of electro-magnetic radiation from mobile towers and handsets;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the inter-ministerial Committee to examine the effect of radiation from base stations and mobile phones on human health has submitted its report;
- (d) if so, the findings of the report and the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (e) whether the Government proposes to formulate a policy for deployment of mobile telecom network bases on international standards; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof and other alternative measures taken by the Government to minimize the ill effects of radiation from mobile phones and base stations?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT AND COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL)

(a) to (f) 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 (f) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 38 FOR 23RD FEBRUARY, 2011 REGARDING "RADIATION FROM MOBILE TOWERS/HANDSETS".

(a) to (d) Yes, Madam. Complaints have been received in Department of Telecommunications (DoT) against the installation of mobile tower due to fear of alleged health hazards from the Electro Magnetic Radiation (EMR). Based on these complaints and media report in this regard, DoT has constituted an Inter-ministerial committee consisting of officers from DoT, Indian Council of Medical Research, Ministry of Health, Department of Biotechnology and Ministry of Environment and Forest to examine the effect of EMF Radiation from base stations and mobile phones.

Inter-Ministerial Committee (IMC) in its report has indicated that most of the laboratory studies were unable to find a direct link between exposure to radio frequency radiation and health; and the scientific studies as yet have not been able to confirm a cause-and-effect relationship between radio frequency radiation and health. The effect of emission from cell phone towers is not known yet with certainty. Further, the committee has also suggested certain safeguards.

The IMC report has been placed on the DoT website [www.dot.gov.in](http://www.dot.gov.in) for feedback from stakeholders. Based on the comments of stakeholders, DoT will take appropriate action in the matter.

(e) & (f) DoT has already adopted the Electro Magnetic Radiation norms prescribed by International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection (ICNIRP). Further, DoT, vide letter No. 800-15/2010-VAS dated 8th April 2010 has directed all Cellular Mobile Telephone Service (CMTS)/ Unified Access Service (UAS) licensees for compliance of the reference limits/ levels prescribed by ICNIRP by way of self certification of their Base Transmitting Station (BTS) for meeting the Electro Magnetic Field (EMF) radiations norms.

As per the directions issued vide letter dated 8th April, 2010, all existing BTSs should be ICNIRP guidelines compliant and all BTSs should be self certified as meeting the radiation norm. Self certification should be submitted to respective Telecom Enforcement Resource & Monitoring (TERM) Cells of DOT. All new BTS sites should start radiating only after self certificate has been submitted to relevant TERM Cells.

The TERM Cell will test up to 10% of new BTS sites randomly at its discretion. Additionally, the BTS sites against which there are public complaints shall also be tested by TERM Cell. The testing shall be done as per procedures prescribed by Telecom Engineering Centre (TEC) from time to time.

If a site fails to meet the EMR 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 the site will be shut down.

Accordingly, the self certifications are being submitted by the telecom service providers to respective TERM Cells. As on date, there are 5,53,326 Base Transmitting Stations (BTS) out of which the self certifications have been submitted by the service providers to the respective TERM Cells for 4,55,428 BTSs. TERM Cells have carried out the testing of radiation levels for 1197 BTSs and found that the radiations levels are in compliance of ICNIRP prescribed levels in all the tested BTSs.

For the mobile handsets, DoT, vide letter no. 18-10/2008-IP dated 01.09.2008, has notified for compliance of Mobile Handsets being manufactured in India as well as the handsets being imported to conform to ICNIRP prescribed Specific Absorption Rate (SAR) limit of 2 W/kg localized for head and trunk in the frequency range of 10 MHz to 10 GHz.

Further, DoT has also decided to set-up a laboratory in the Telecommunication Engineering Centre (TEC) for testing of SAR value of mobile handsets imported/manufactured in India.