

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2297
ANSWERED ON:12.08.2011
SOLAR POWER NETWORK
Sampath Shri Anirudhan

Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the cellular tower consume a lot of power in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has any proposal to support telecom operators and tower companies to shift to renewable sources to power network towers in the country; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY (DR. FAROOQ ABDULLAH)

(a) &(b): Yes, Madam. There are around 6.5 lakh Cellular Base Terminal Stations (BTS) in the country as on 30.6.2011. Each BTS consumes around 1 to 1.5 kilowatt power.

(c)&(d): During FY 2010-11, the Ministry has supported pilot projects for use of Solar Photovoltaic power systems in 400 nos. Cellular towers of different operators, primarily with a view to demonstrate the efficacy of such systems in substitution/ abatement of diesel based power generation in case of towers located in off-grid/ power deficit areas. There is presently no proposal to further extend this support to more towers on the same lines.