

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:236  
ANSWERED ON:17.08.2011  
POLICY ON RADIATION FREE TOWERS HANDSETS  
Singh Shri Bhupendra ;Tewari Shri Manish

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

- (a) whether a national policy and guidelines on electromagnetic frequency radiation for mobile towers and Specific Absorption Rate (SAR) for mobile phones have been formulated;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Government has set up any laboratory in the country to test the SAR value of mobile handsets, imported/manufactured in India;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) the mobile handsets identified with radiation emission levels higher than the prescribed norms, company-wise;
- (f) whether the Government proposes to ban the use of such handsets in the country; and
- (g) if so, the details thereof?

**Answer**

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

(a) to (g) 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 (g) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 236 FOR 17TH AUGUST, 2011 RAISED BY SHRI MANISH TEWARI AND SHRI BHOOPENDRA SINGH REGARDING "POLICY ON RADIATION FREE TOWERS/HANDSETS"

(a) & (b) Yes Madam, Department of Telecommunications (DoT) has adopted the Electro Magnetic Radiation norms for mobile towers and Specific Absorption Rate (SAR) for mobile phones prescribed by International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection (ICNIRP). Accordingly, all the Cellular Mobile Telephone Service (CMTS)/ Unified Access Service (UAS) licensees have been directed 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 vide letter dated 8th April 2010.

As per the directions issued vide letter dated 8th April, 2010, all existing BTSs shall be self certified as meeting the radiation norm and self certification is submitted to respective Telecom Enforcement Resource & Monitoring (TERM) Cells of DoT. All new BTS sites starts radiating only after self certificate has been submitted to relevant TERM Cells. The TERM Cell tests up to 10% of new BTS sites randomly at its discretion. Additionally, the BTS sites against which there are public complaints are also tested by TERM Cell. The testing is done as per procedures prescribed by Telecom Engineering Centre (TEC).

If a site fails to meet the EMF norms, there is a provision of penalty of Rs. 5 lakh to 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.

For the mobile handsets, DoT, vide letter dated 01.09.2008, has notified for compliance of Mobile Handsets being manufactured in India to conform to ICNIRP prescribed Specific Absorption Rate (SAR) limit of 2 W/kg in the frequency range of 10 MHz to 10 GHz and has taken following steps for compliance of SAR value for mobile phones:

- (i) Indigenous manufacturers of mobile handsets have been instructed to comply with ICNIRP guidelines and furnish self-certificate.
- (ii) Mobile handsets manufacturers have been instructed to indicate the level of radiation on the product itself and to clearly communicate the potential danger of mobile phone radiation and exposure.
- (iii) To regulate indigenous as well as imported mobile phone, Bureau of Indian Standard (BIS) has been requested to frame standards for all mobile phones under BIS Act 1986.

(c) & (d) DoT has decided to set-up a laboratory in the Telecommunication Engineering Centre (TEC) for testing of SAR value of mobile handsets imported/manufactured in India at a cost of Rs. 3.30 Crores. The tender in this regard has been floated and the lab is likely to be ready by February, 2012.

(e) to (g) All major manufacturers publish the SAR value for mobile phones in the user manual and on its company website. Further, no cases have been reported so far regarding mobile handsets having radiation more than the limits prescribed by ICNIRP.