

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1328

ANSWERED ON:21.03.2012

GREEN ENERGY FOR CELL TOWERS

Agarwal Shri Rajendra; Harsha Kumar Shri G.V.; Joshi Shri Pralhad Venkatesh; Naik Shri Shripad Yesso; Panda Shri Baijayant; Pradhan Shri Nityananda; Venugopal Shri P.

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

- (a) whether the telecom companies are using subsidized diesel to power their cell phone towers in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the amount of money spent annually on diesel by the telecom sector;
- (c) the estimated quantity of diesel consumed for the purpose during each of the last three years and the current year, company-wise;
- (d) whether the Government proposes to make green energy mandatory for powering the cell phone towers;
- (e) if so, the details thereof alongwith the provisions made/likely to be made in this regard in New Telecom Policy and its likely impact on mobile tariff; and
- (f) the initiatives being taken to control the increasing consumption of subsidized diesel by the telecom sector along with the guidelines prepared by TRAI towards green telecom?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI MILIND DEORA)

- (a) No Madam. Telecom companies are using the diesel available in the market to power their cell phone towers in the country.
- (b) Does Not arise, in view of (a) above.
- (c) There is no actual data available. However, TRAI in its report has indicated an average fuel consumption of 8760 litres diesel every year per tower assuming 8 hours of operation by Diesel Generator sets and there are 5.27 lakhs towers in the country.
- (d) Yes, Madam.
- (e) The Government of India has accepted the TRAI recommendation on powering the cell phone towers by green energy:
 - (i) At-least 50% of all rural towers & 20% of urban towers are to powered by renewable energy technologies (Renewable Energy Technologies (RET)+ Grid power) by 2015 and 75% of rural towers & 33% of urban towers are to be powered with (RET+ Grid power) by 2020.
 - (ii) Provisions are likely to be made in the National Telecom Policy (NTP) for adoption of green policy in telecommunication sector and incentivize the use of renewable energy sources. This will result towards substantially reducing the consumption of diesel by telecom sector.
- (f) Government directives have been issued vide Department Of Telecommunications order No. 800-61/2012-VAS dated 23.01.2012 to promote Green Telecommunications that will result in reduction of consumption of diesel in Telecom sector (Annexure A).