

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2511

ANSWERED ON:28.03.2012

POLICY FOR INSTALLATION OF MOBILE TOWERS

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

- (a) the policy of the Government for installation of network towers at private places, residences, commercial centres and near schools and high densely populated areas alongwith the safety norms followed in this regard;
- (b) whether cases of accidents due to the said towers have come to light in the country;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the radiation limit of mobile towers and the mobile phone is higher in India than the international standard of other countries;
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (f) the details of mechanism in place to check the radiation limit of mobile towers and the mobile handsets; and (g) the action taken by the Government on the above aspects alongwith the action taken against the telecom companies/mobile phone manufacturers for violation of established norms?

Answer

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

(a) Madam, as per the existing policy for installation of towers, Wireless Planning & Coordination

(WPC) wing of Department of Telecommunications (DoT) issues siting clearance for installation of mobile towers for each and every site from the point of view of interference with other wireless users, aviation hazards and obstruction to any other existing microwave links. As such, there is no separate guidelines for installation of towers at private places, residences, commercial centres, near schools and high densely populated areas.

However, siting clearances of DoT are issued without prejudice to other applicable bylaws, rule and regulations of local bodies such as municipal corporation, Gram Panchayat etc. Accordingly, before installation of tower, the telecom service providers have to obtain necessary clearances from concerned local authorities such as municipal corporation, Gram Panchayat etc. Various local bodies/State Government have formulated their own policy including safety norms regarding grant of such permissions for installation of mobile towers.

(b)&(c) As intimated by Telecom Enforcement, Resource & Monitoring (TERM) Cells, no such incidents have been reported,

(d)&(e) DoT has adopted the International norms in respect of Electro Magnetic Field (EMF) Radiation from mobile towers and Specific Absorption Rate (SAR) for mobile phones prescribed by International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection (ICNIRP).

(f) All the Cellular Mobile Telephone Service (CMTS)/ Unified Access Service (UAS) licensees have been directed for compliance of the prescribed reference limits/ levels by way of self certification of their Base Transmitting Station (BTS) for meeting the EMF radiations norms vide letter dated 8th April 2010.

As per the directions issued vide letter dated 8th April, 2010, all BTSs shall be self certified as meeting the radiation norm and self certification is submitted to respective 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 BTS sites randomly at its discretion. Additionally, the BTS sites against which there are public complaints are also tested by TERM Cell.

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.

(g) As on 31.12.2011, Telecom Service Providers have submitted the self certificate for 6,80,630 BTSs certifying that the radiation levels are within the prescribed norms. TERM cells have started the testing of Electromagnetic Radiation levels of mobile tower and as on 31.12.2011, total 14,610 BTSs have checked and all are found to be conforming to prescribed radiation norms.

Further, 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 was constituted on 24.08.2010 to examine the effect of EMF Radiation from base stations and mobile phones.

The recommendations made by Inter-Ministerial Committee (IMC) have been accepted and issued vide letter dated 17.11.2011. The following action has been taken by DoT for implementation of the IMC recommendations:

(i) Norms for exposure limit for the Radio Frequency Field (Base Station Emissions) has been reduced to 1/10th of the existing limits prescribed by ICNIRP. Directions in this regard has been issued to the Mobile Operators vide DoT letter no. 800-15/2010-VAS(pt.) dated 30.12.2011. These directions are effective from 01.04.2012.

(ii) Specific Absorption Rate (SAR) level for Mobile Handset has been revised from 2 watt per Kg. to 1.6 Watt per Kg. Directions in this regard including other recommendations related to Mobile Handset have been issued to Mobile Handset Manufacturers vide DoT letter no. 18-10/2008-IP dated 25.01.2012 . These directions shall be effective from 01.09.2012.