

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4110  
ANSWERED ON:30.04.2012  
AIR AND NOISE POLLUTION BY MOBILE TOWERS  
Agarwal Shri Rajendra;Harsha Kumar Shri G.V.

**Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the Government has taken note of the increasing use of diesel by telecom companies for running telecom towers and the air and noise pollution in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN)

(a)to(c). Telecom companies depend on diesel gensets for powering their cellular towers due to non-availability of power on 24X7 basis. Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has estimated that average diesel consumption by a genset, assuming 8 hours operation per day for a cellular tower, is approximately 8760 litres per year. There are 5.88 lakhs cellular towers in the country, as reported by Department of Telecommunications.

TRAI has recommended powering the telecom towers by green energy. Department of Telecommunications have issued an order, dated 23.01.2012 to promote green telecommunications and reduce the consumption of diesel in telecom sector, as per the recommendation of TRAI.

Government has also notified emission standards and noise norms for diesel gensets, at manufacturing stage, which are enforced by the Central Pollution Control Board.