

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5896

ANSWERED ON:11.05.2012

ADVERSE HEALTH AFFECTS OF MOBILE PHONE/TOWER RADIATION

Bhagat Shri Sudarshan;Gandhi Shri Feroze Varun;Ganpatrao Shri Jadhav Prataprao;Mahato Shri Narahari;Ramasubbu Shri S.;Roy Shri Nripendra Nath;Singh Rajkumari Ratna;Vishwanath Shri katti Ramesh

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has taken note of a recent study conducted by the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) which states that radiation and electromagnetic fields generated by mobile phones, towers and other wireless communication devices increase cancer risk among humans;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the facts in this regard;

(c) whether the Government has conducted/proposed any study in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the findings thereof; and

(e) the action plan formulated/proposed by the Government to minimise adverse health affects of radiation from mobile phones, towers and other wireless communication devices?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABIAZAD)

(a) Yes, the Government is aware and has taken note of recent study conducted by the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC).

(b) International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) classified radiofrequency electromagnetic field as possible carcinogenic to human (Group-2B) and this was announced by the World Health Organization through their press release on 31st May, 2011.

(c) Indian Council of Medical Research has already initiated a multi-centric study in Delhi/NCR to address this issue.

(d) Under this study, efforts are going on to examine whether use of cell phone create risk of neurological, cardiological, cancer, ENT and reproductive disorders. The efforts are also going on to measure specific absorption rate, power density wave length and frequency of RFR emitted from various types of cell phones and cell phone towers under this study.

(e)To review the existing literature in this area and to develop necessary guidelines fixing safe exposure limits of RFR alongwith other necessary measurements and recommendations on this topic in the country the Dept. of Telecommunication, Ministry of Communication and Information Technology, Government of India appointed an Inter-Ministerial Committee where a senior scientist from the ICMR participated as the member of the Inter-ministerial Committee. The report of the Inter-Ministerial committee has been accepted by the Ministry of Communication and IT. On the basis of recommendations of Inter-Ministerial Committee norms for exposure limit for the Radio Frequency Field (Base Station Emissions) has been reduced to 1/10th of the existing limits prescribed by International Commission on Non Ionizing Radiation Protection(ICNIRP).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 have been issued to Mobile Handset Manufacturers/mobile operators which shall be effective from 01.09.2012.