

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:87

ANSWERED ON:08.08.2012

INSUFFICIENT MOBILE TOWERS

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

- (a) whether there is shortage of spectrum in the country and mobile towers are also not sufficient enough to cater the demand;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the less number of mobile towers is main reason for poor network coverage in the country;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the action taken by the Government to get sufficient number of mobile towers installed particularly by the PSU telecom companies simultaneously to address the radiation issue?

**Answer**

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

(a) to (d): Due to the existing usages and spectrum requirement for telecom services, there is shortage of spectrum in certain frequency bands. The location and number of the towers are decided by the service providers themselves as per their technical and business requirements. Presently, there are about more than 7.5 lakhs of mobile towers in the country and more are being added regularly by respective Service Providers. Network coverage can be enhanced with addition of more towers.

(e) BSNL, through Universal Service Obligation (USO) Fund of the Government, has installed many mobile towers especially in rural/ remote areas. As regards electromagnetic radiation from mobile towers, Government has issued instructions to the Telecom Service Providers on implementation of radiation norms on Electromagnetic Field (EMF) exposure by Base Transceiver Stations (BTSs) from time to time.